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PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER Sunday
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLES

JANUARY 6, 2002 ★ 58 PAGES 5 SECTIONS VOL.17 NO. 29

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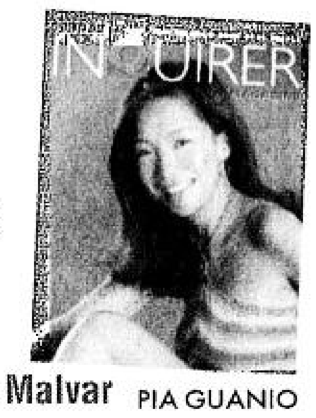

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BY FE B. ZAMORA
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NEW/ A15

PROUDLY draping a malong on her Western garb, President Macapagal (at left) is on her way to install the new ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin (above) on Saturday in Cotabato City.

EDWIN BACASMAS

BINAHA NG DISGRASYA!

More deaths in Mindanao flood

DAVAO CITY—The death toll in the flooding that has hit several Mindanao provinces rose to nine yesterday with several persons still missing.

Disaster officials reported that region-wide close to 30,000 families had been affected by the floods as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

In this city alone, the local disaster coordinating council confirmed at least seven deaths and four injuries.

In nearby Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, the regional disaster office said one person was killed when rampaging floodwaters washed away seven houses in Barangay Darong.

Disaster officials also confirmed that at least 11 persons remain missing in various parts of Davao City.

In Cagayan de Oro City, a 16-year-old girl was killed in a landslide in Barangay Bugo.

In Misamis Oriental, four fishermen were declared missing after huge waves battered the coastal towns of Lugait and Salay.

Worst

Davao City Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan described the floods that submerged at least 26 areas in the city as the worst in years.

Island-wide, thousands of families have been evacuated or were being prepared to leave as floodwaters continued to rise in some areas.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, Davao City disaster officials said a total of 10,338 local families had been affected.

Carmelito Lupo, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense, said that in Southern Mindanao, four other provinces—Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental—were submerged in water because of torrential rains.

In all of Southern Mindanao, Lupo said, 16,048 families with 95,084 dependents have been affected.

Davao damage

Disaster officials said traffic in some areas of Mindanao has been adversely affected after rains damaged at least six major bridges.

Government engineers have started working double time to repair some of the spans.

But officials would not release any damage estimates yet, although some of them put it in the hundreds of millions of pesos.

In this city, Mario Verner Monsanto, disaster office action officer, said more than 500 homes were destroyed after water started to rise in Davao City's low-lying areas on Thursday.

In Davao del Norte, the regional disaster office said initial damage to infrastructure was P500,000.

Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza said the city was virtually isolated from Northern Mindanao after the Pagan-Pequeño Bridge linking the Davao-Bukidnon highways collapsed and a landslide in Tuburan, Compostela Valley blocked the Davao-Agusan Highway.

State of calamity

Because of the magnitude of the problem, the Davao City council yesterday declared a state of calamity.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the declaration would allow him to use the five-percent calamity fund under the city's P1.7 billion budget for the year.

Duterte said one of his priorities would be the purchase of rubber boats, which could be used in rescue and relief operations in the event of another calamity.

Private individuals and other agencies, including the military, have provided rubber boats to rescue victims trapped in their homes.

Bonguyan said the city council was also studying the possibility of setting aside some funds for the purchase of a helicopter for the city government.

Other areas

Dureza said that also submerged were areas of Ozamiz City, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Sur and other parts of the Caraga Region.

Also underwater were flood-prone areas in North Cotabato, although there were no reports of casualties.

Disaster officials said hundreds were displaced in the rural areas of M'lang, President Roxas, Tulunan and Matalam towns.

M'lang Mayor Luigi Cuerpo said at least seven barangays in his town were under water.

He said they were still trying to consolidate the amount of the damage, particularly in the agricultural areas.

In Matalam, reports reaching Kidapawan City-based Radio dxND indicated that at least six barangays were affected by the floods.

Hardest hit was President Roxas town as the Kabacan River overflowed. *Grace C. Albasin, Anthony S. Allada, Franklin A. Caliguid, Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, Joel B. Escovilla, Rosa May V. de Guzman, Ayan C. Mellejor and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A MAN tries to keep his worldly possessions high and dry near the swollen Bankerohan River in Davao City.

Gov't keeps hands off Davao kidnap

DAVAO CITY—The government is keeping a hands-off policy in the kidnapping of a businessman's daughter here after the victim's family asked that they be allowed to negotiate with the kidnappers.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, yesterday said the request of the family of the victim, Maria Cecilia Bonifacio, for government not to interfere will be respected.

But Dureza said government is also taking appropriate steps to determine who was really behind the abduction.

Bonifacio, together with their househelp Fe Jayno and Jayno's aunt Norma, was seized by armed men while aboard a Toyota Rav 4 van Thursday afternoon.

Dureza refused to confirm that the notorious Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group was behind the kidnapping even as the one who called up the family Thursday night claimed to be a member of the gang.

The caller allegedly demanded a P5 million ransom.

"Everybody can claim to be one even if he was not," Dureza said as he called on media to be very careful and accurate with their reporting since this time is a very sensitive moment for the victims and their family.

He said that as far as the government is concerned, the no-ransom policy should be applied.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he respects the family's decision, but would still initiate moves to safely recover the victims.

The Pentagon gang is still holding captive Italian Catholic priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, who was kidnapped in Zamboanga del Sur province in Oct. 17. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nothing to Marines' pullout

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said it was not true that Philippine Marines were pulled out of Basilan for failing to rescue three hostages of the Abu Sayyaf.

She said the Marines had to be deployed to Sulu to counter further uprisings by followers of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari.

Military officials earlier replaced the Marine battalions stationed in Basilan with three Philippine Army brigades, composed mostly of Light Reaction Unit and Scout Rangers trained by the United States.

There were speculations the Marines had been pulled out because of their failure to recover the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap.

"That is not the reason. That's just an intrigue," Ms Macapagal said during her weekly TV program, "May Gloria ang Bukas mo."

She said the Marines had been sent to Sulu to replace a battalion from Negros Oriental that had been deployed there after the short-lived revolt in Jolo by Misuari's followers on Nov. 19.

The Negros battalion has since returned to its original base to deal with communist rebels, she said.

"These (Marines) are from Sulu. So just one battalion was transferred from Basilan to Sulu. It does not mean they were pulled out (of Basilan)," Ms Macapagal said.

She said the military has to keep its presence in Sulu, which is Misuari's bailiwick, in anticipation of his return to the country.

But the President also claimed that most of Misuari's followers now want a reconciliation with the government.

She said they have started talking to the new governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Parouk Hussin, and other government officials.

4 killed in ambush

COTABATO CITY—Masked gunmen killed a barangay chair and three councilors in an ambush in a remote village of Maguindanao early yesterday.

Killed were Talib Sakilan, 47, chair of Barangay Ganasi in Upi town, and council members Ismael Daud, Datu Akmad and Datu Manan.

Four relatives of Sakilan were also hurt in the ambush which occurred at about 7 a.m.

The ambush took place as President Macapagal-Arroyo was visiting Cotabato City, just 30 km away, but there was no indication that the incident was related to her visit.

Those who survived the attack said they were riding in a passenger hauler truck owned by Sakilan and were on their way to the town's pubic market when the ambush occurred.

About six gunmen, wearing black ski masks, hurled a grenade under the truck and then sprayed the vehicle with automatic rifle fire, the survivors said.

"One of the suspects shouted 'ambush,' then the attackers tossed a hand grenade and sprayed us with rifle fire," said farmer Abdul Abud Abid.

The attackers, who had positioned themselves on both sides of the road, are believed to have been only after Sakilan. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AP*

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Database Design	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Jan 18, 19, 26 & Feb 2
Java Programming	PhP 6,000	9AM to 4PM - Jan 21 to 25
Web Design for Beginners	PhP 3,600	6PM to 9PM - Jan 21 to 26
Advanced Java Workshop	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Jan 28 to 31
Systems Analysis and Design Workshop	PhP 5,000	6PM to 9PM - Jan 28 to Feb 2
Java 2 Platform, Micro Ed (J2ME) Workshop	PhP 2,000	9AM to 4PM - Feb 2
ASP Programming	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Feb 4 to 7
Java Programming	PhP 6,000	6PM to 9PM - Feb 4 to 9, 11 to 14
Introduction to Programming Using Java	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Feb 8 to 9, 15 to 16
Using Linux	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Feb 11 to 14
Database Design	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Feb 18 to 21
ASP Programming	PhP 4,800	6PM to 9PM - Feb 15 to 16, 18 to 23
Advanced Java Workshop	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Feb 22 to 23, Mar 1 to 2
Linux System Administration	PhP 4,800	9AM to 4PM - Feb 25 to 28
Software Testing Workshop	PhP 6,000	6PM to 9PM - Feb 25 to Mar 2

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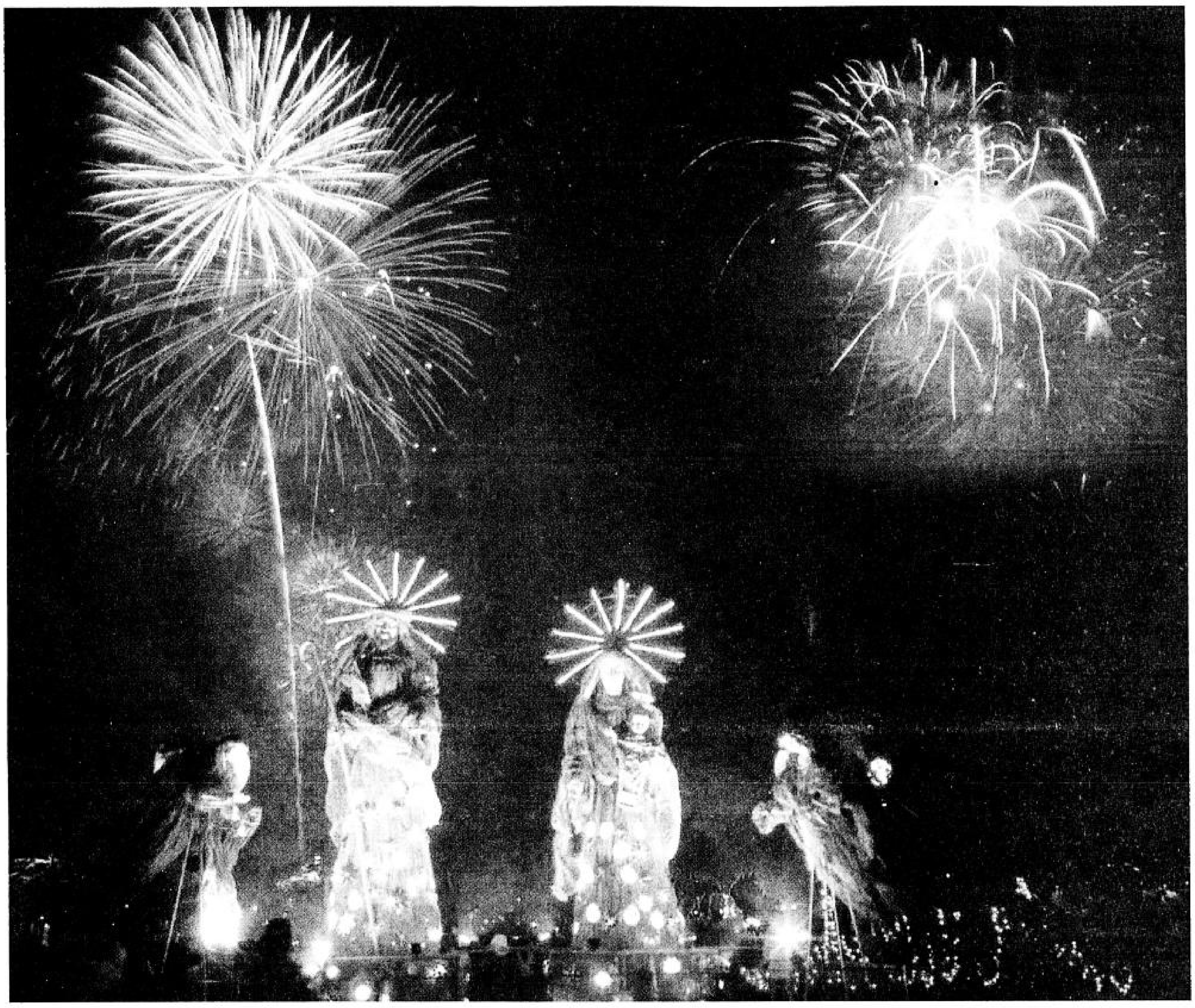

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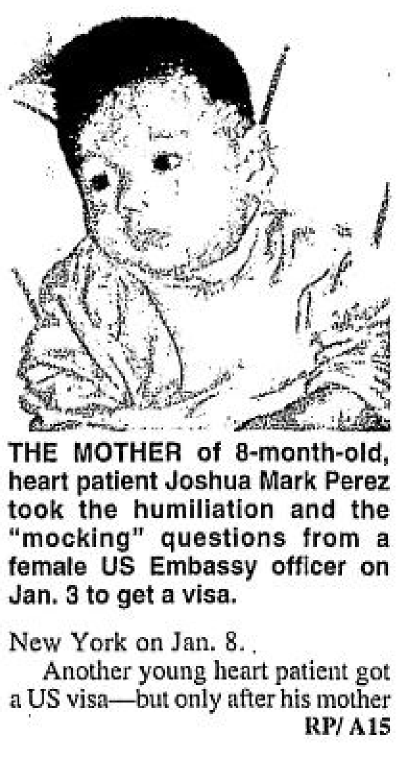

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Misuari, then the MNLF chair, was installed ARMM governor as part of the OIC-brokered peace accord with the government in 1996.

The establishment of the ARMM was intended to give a measure of

NEW/ A15

PROUDLY draping a malong on her Western garb, President Macapagal (at left) is on her way to install the new ARMM Gov. Parouk Hussin (above) on Saturday in Cotabato City.

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More deaths in Mindanao flood

DAVAO CITY—The death toll in the flooding that has hit several Mindanao provinces rose to nine yesterday with several persons still missing.

Disaster officials reported that region-wide close to 30,000 families had been affected by the floods as of 5 p.m. yesterday.

In this city alone, the local disaster coordinating council confirmed at least seven deaths and four injuries.

In nearby Sta. Cruz, Davao del Sur, the regional disaster office said one person was killed when rampaging floodwaters washed away seven houses in Barangay Darong.

Disaster officials also confirmed that at least 11 persons remain missing in various parts of Davao City.

In Cagayan de Oro City, a 16-year-old girl was killed in a landslide in Barangay Bugo.

In Misamis Oriental, four fishermen were declared missing after huge waves battered the coastal towns of Lugait and Salay.

Worst

Davao City Vice Mayor Luis Bonguyan described the floods that submerged at least 26 areas in the city as the worst in years.

Island-wide, thousands of families have been evacuated or were being prepared to leave as floodwaters continued to rise in some areas.

As of 11 a.m. yesterday, Davao City disaster officials said a total of 10,338 local families had been affected.

Carmelito Lupo, regional director of the Office of Civil Defense, said that in Southern Mindanao, four other provinces—Davao del Norte, Compostela Valley, Davao del Sur and Davao Oriental—were submerged in water because of torrential rains.

In all of Southern Mindanao, Lupo said, 16,048 families with 95,084 dependents have been affected.

Davao damage

Disaster officials said traffic in some areas of Mindanao has been adversely affected after rains damaged at least six major bridges.

Government engineers have started working double time to repair some of the spans.

But officials would not release any damage estimates yet, although some of them put it in the hundreds of millions of pesos.

In this city, Mario Verner Monsanto, disaster office action officer, said more than 500 homes were destroyed after water started to rise in Davao City's low-lying areas on Thursday.

In Davao del Norte, the regional disaster office said initial damage to infrastructure was P500,000.

Presidential Assistant Jesus Dureza said the city was virtually isolated from Northern Mindanao after the Pagan-Pequeño Bridge linking the Davao-Bukidnon highways collapsed and a landslide in Tuburan, Compostela Valley blocked the Davao-Agusan Highway.

State of calamity

Because of the magnitude of the problem, the Davao City council yesterday declared a state of calamity.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said the declaration would allow him to use the five-percent calamity fund under the city's P1.7 billion budget for the year.

Duterte said one of his priorities would be the purchase of rubber boats, which could be used in rescue and relief operations in the event of another calamity.

Private individuals and other agencies, including the military, have provided rubber boats to rescue victims trapped in their homes.

Bonguyan said the city council was also studying the possibility of setting aside some funds for the purchase of a helicopter for the city government.

Other areas

Dureza said that also submerged were areas of Ozamiz City, Surigao del Sur, Agusan del Sur and other parts of the Caraga Region.

Also underwater were flood-prone areas in North Cotabato, although there were no reports of casualties.

Disaster officials said hundreds were displaced in the rural areas of M'lang, President Roxas, Tulunan and Matalam towns.

M'lang Mayor Luigi Cuerpo said at least seven barangays in his town were under water.

He said they were still trying to consolidate the amount of the damage, particularly in the agricultural areas.

In Matalam, reports reaching Kidapawan City-based Radio dxND indicated that at least six barangays were affected by the floods.

Hardest hit was President Roxas town as the Kabacan River overflowed. *Grace C. Albasin, Anthony S. Allada, Franklin A. Caliguid, Ma. Kristina E. Cassion, Joel B. Escovilla, Rosa May V. de Guzman, Ayan C. Mellejor and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

A MAN tries to keep his worldly possessions high and dry near the swollen Bankerohan River in Davao City.

Gov't keeps hands off Davao kidnap

DAVAO CITY—The government is keeping a hands-off policy in the kidnapping of a businessman's daughter here after the victim's family asked that they be allowed to negotiate with the kidnappers.

Jesus Dureza, presidential assistant for Mindanao, yesterday said the request of the family of the victim, Maria Cecilia Bonifacio, for government not to interfere will be respected.

But Dureza said government is also taking appropriate steps to determine who was really behind the abduction.

Bonifacio, together with their househelp Fe Jayno and Jayno's aunt Norma, was seized by armed men while aboard a Toyota Rav 4 van Thursday afternoon.

Dureza refused to confirm that the notorious Pentagon kidnap-for-ransom group was behind the kidnapping even as the one who called up the family Thursday night claimed to be a member of the gang.

The caller allegedly demanded a P5 million ransom.

"Everybody can claim to be one even if he was not," Dureza said as he called on media to be very careful and accurate with their reporting since this time is a very sensitive moment for the victims and their family.

He said that as far as the government is concerned, the no-ransom policy should be applied.

Mayor Rodrigo Duterte said he respects the family's decision, but would still initiate moves to safely recover the victims.

The Pentagon gang is still holding captive Italian Catholic priest Giuseppe Pierantoni, who was kidnapped in Zamboanga del Sur province in Oct. 17. *Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Nothing to Marines' pullout

By Dona Pazzibugan

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said it was not true that Philippine Marines were pulled out of Basilan for failing to rescue three hostages of the Abu Sayyaf.

She said the Marines had to be deployed to Sulu to counter further uprisings by followers of renegade Moro leader Nur Misuari.

Military officials earlier replaced the Marine battalions stationed in Basilan with three Philippine Army brigades, composed mostly of Light Reaction Unit and Scout Rangers trained by the United States.

There were speculations the Marines had been pulled out because of their failure to recover the American missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipina nurse Deborah Yap.

"That is not the reason. That's just an intrigue," Ms Macapagal said during her weekly TV program, "May Gloria ang Bukas mo."

She said the Marines had been sent to Sulu to replace a battalion from Negros Oriental that had been deployed there after the short-lived revolt in Jolo by Misuari's followers on Nov. 19.

The Negros battalion has since returned to its original base to deal with communist rebels, she said.

"These (Marines) are from Sulu. So just one battalion was transferred from Basilan to Sulu. It does not mean they were pulled out (of Basilan)," Ms Macapagal said.

She said the military has to keep its presence in Sulu, which is Misuari's bailiwick, in anticipation of his return to the country.

But the President also claimed that most of Misuari's followers now want a reconciliation with the government.

She said they have started talking to the new governor of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao, Parouk Hussin, and other government officials.

4 killed in ambush

COTABATO CITY—Masked gunmen killed a barangay chair and three councilors in an ambush in a remote village of Maguindanao early yesterday.

Killed were Talib Sakilan, 47, chair of Barangay Ganasi in Upi town, and council members Ismael Daud, Datu Akmad and Datu Manan.

Four relatives of Sakilan were also hurt in the ambush which occurred at about 7 a.m.

The ambush took place as President Macapagal-Arroyo was visiting Cotabato City, just 30 km away, but there was no indication that the incident was related to her visit.

Those who survived the attack said they were riding in a passenger hauler truck owned by Sakilan and were on their way to the town's pubic market when the ambush occurred.

About six gunmen, wearing black ski masks, hurled a grenade under the truck and then sprayed the vehicle with automatic rifle fire, the survivors said.

"One of the suspects shouted 'ambush,' then the attackers tossed a hand grenade and sprayed us with rifle fire," said farmer Abdul Abud Abid.

The attackers, who had positioned themselves on both sides of the road, are believed to have been only after Sakilan. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau, with a report from AP*

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Shades of Marcos, Pimentel says of info clearinghouse

By Cynthia D. Balana

TWO senators yesterday said Malacañang could be drifting to martial rule by not making public the mechanics of a new order setting up the so-called "clearinghouse" that will centralize the news releases by all departments of the government.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said that Memorandum Order No. 49 reminded him of former President Ferdinand Marcos's moves to muzzle the press.

"I see shades of martial rule here," said Pimentel, who was a political prisoner during martial law.

"What would Malacañang do to deodorize its image?" he asked.

Pimentel noted that the signal sent out by Malacañang when Press Undersecretary for Broadcast Manuel Sanchez tried to censure Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo for publicly speaking about the San Miguel Corp.-Kirin deal was a big threat to press freedom.

"This centralization is nothing but a gag order and it will not help in promoting transparency in government," Pimentel said.

Sen. Tessie Aquino-Oreta said Malacañang should release the mechanics or implementing guidelines for the order to allay fears that it was designed to manipulate the release of official information.

Oreta said that the criticism of Sen. Joker Arroyo that the order "smacks of press censorship" has bolstered her earlier fears that it could be a "cunning maneuver" by certain Palace officials to manage the flow of official information aimed at the 2004 presidential elections.

She said the lack of implementing rules on the controversial memorandum issued by the President has spawned disturbing statements from the Palace, like its recent pronouncement that the directive would even cover local government units.

"Besides fending off allegations that MO 49 will restrict access to the public's right to information, the OPS should also make sure that its implementing rules would not lead to an operational nightmare on the part of the Palace," she said.

Reports said that Senator Arroyo has chastised Sanchez for criticizing Marcelo for expressing his legal opinion that runs counter to the official position of Malacañang on the SMC-Kirin deal.

Oreta said that the President's directive might also indicate a Palace drift to an Orwellian state where "Big Brother is always watching you." The English author George Orwell, in his novel Nineteen Eight-Four (1984), depicted an intrusively bureaucratized form of government that conceals the truth from the public by controlling the flow of, and window-dressing information through what the author termed as "newspeak."

Peace talks with Reds off

THE COMMUNIST insurgent leadership said yesterday that the resumption of peace talks with the government had been "scuttled" and blamed Manila for the problem.

"The next round of formal peace talks between the GRP (government of the Republic of the Philippines) and the (communist insurgents) scheduled by mutual agreement for Jan. 7-11, 2002 in Oslo (Norway) have been scuttled by the GRP," the insurgents said in a statement issued in Manila.

The National Democratic Front said that the government failed to submit a "note verbale" to the Norwegian government in time to inform Norway that it should prepare to host the resumption of the peace talks. Norway hosted the previous peace talks between the two sides.

The communists also accused the government of President Macapagal-Arroyo of "pushing so-called back-channel talks" rather than formal negotiations, adding that Manila was refusing to sign any formal accords with the communists during these informal negotiations.

Government peace negotiators earlier said that successful "back-channeling" talks had been conducted with the communists last month, making it likely that a peace deal with the rebel group could be sealed within six months.

The communist statement made no mention of this but accused the government of making "baseless allegations" about the progress of the negotiations.

The insurgents also charged that the government had violated a unilateral ceasefire it called with the communists over the Christmas season. Both sides had called separate unilateral ceasefires which both end on Ja[illegible].

The military has previously accused the communists of violating the ceasefire, in the most recent case by ambushing a military patrol and killing two government troops in Mindanao on Thursday.

The rebels, who maintain an international office in Utrecht, Netherlands, said that the government must show "seriousness" in continuing the formal peace talks by informing Norway in advance and carrying out "goodwill and confidence-building measures" agreed upon by both sides.

Ms Macapagal suspended talks with the communists in June last year after their guerrillas assassinated two members of the House of Representatives—Rodolfo Aguinaldo and Marcial Punzalan.

The military has said there are about 12,000 communist insurgents in the Philippines. *AFP*

Chinese Embassy defends action on kidnap suspects

THE CHINESE Embassy is concerned that the growing controversy over the escape of two Chinese kidnapping suspects after the intervention of a Chinese diplomat would hurt Beijing's improving relations with the Philippines.

Chinese nationals Zhang Ziwang and Zhang Du, who were arrested on kidnap-for-ransom charges, were granted bail reportedly after Chinese Consul General Zhu Tao Ying issued a note verbale requesting their release, apparently vouching for their innocence.

Embassy spokesperson Wang Luo said Beijing would not want to see the incident damaging Chinese-Philippine relations, which she said were now "witnessing a new momentum."

"We would not want to see misunderstanding arising from this matter between the embassy and the Chinese-Filipino community, nor would we want to see confrontation between and among the Chinese-Filipino societies," Wang added.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez earlier accused the Chinese Embassy of interfering in the case as the note verbale reportedly induced a prosecutor in La Union to downgrade the charges against Zhang Du and Zhang Ziwang.

Accessories

The two were instead charged as mere accessories, allowing them to post bail of P100,000 each, after which they fled to China.

The two, with five other Chinese nationals, had been charged with the kidnapping of businesswoman Jacky Rowena Tiu in San Fernando City last September. Tiu was released after her family reportedly paid a ransom of P10 million.

Wang said that the note verbale issued by the consul general was not meant to establish the innocence of the two suspects. She said it was merely a request made by the consul general in behalf of the Chinese nationals.

"The Chinese Embassy is only exercising its rights and obligations accorded by the Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations and the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations," she said.

Perez said a request by an embassy did not qualify as evidence.

"It is not for the (Chinese) embassy to decide on the guilt or innocence of the kidnappers," he said. *Norman Bordadora*

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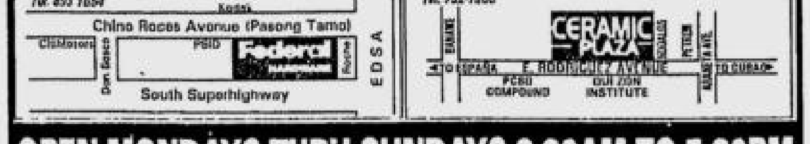

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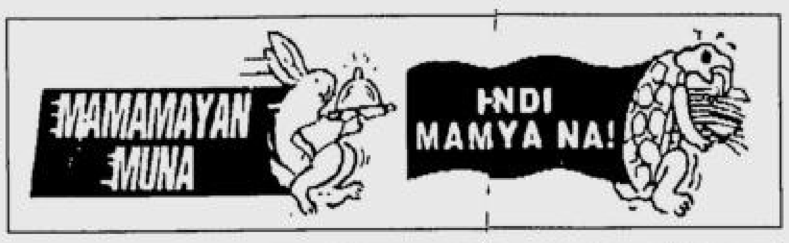

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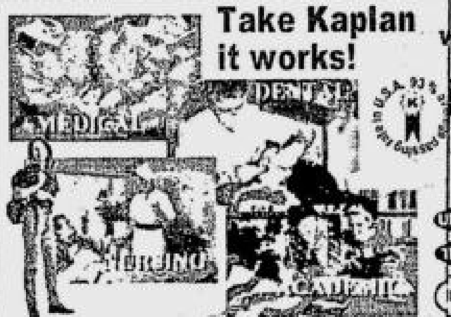

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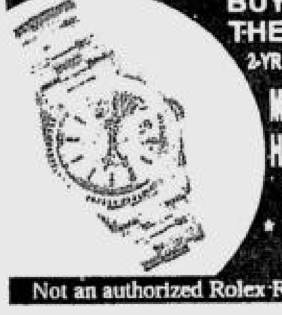

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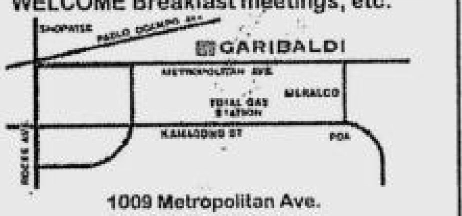

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Desierto wants special division for Erap cases

By Michael Ubac

OMBUDSMAN Aniano Desierto wants the Sandiganbayan to create a special division to try the plunder and four other criminal cases against jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Even as he said this, Desierto slammed Estrada defense lawyers for asking to have the three cases against the disgraced leader pending with the Sandiganbayan's Third Division—plunder, second perjury and illegal use of an alias—again raffled off to other divisions.

Desierto said the latest motion from the defense would only further delay the proceedings.

He insisted that the cases stay with the Third Division, now temporarily chaired by Associate Justice Teresita de Castro after the Supreme Court ordered its chair, Associate Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., to go on an indefinite leave.

Desierto said raffling off the cases anew would not make a difference as many of the Sandiganbayan justices are due to retire.

'Best alternative'

"The best alternative is for the Supreme Court to designate Sandiganbayan justices to compose a special division to try all the Estrada cases," he said.

The justices which the high court would handpick to compose the special division should be "ordered to stay until all the cases have been resolved with finality."

Desierto said only the high court has the power to create such a special division.

Desierto also said that it would be better for the cases to stay at the Third Division as Justice De

DESIERTO

Castro has personally heard e testimonies of the three witnesses that have beeiresented so far.

The witnesses were formeSocial Security System president and chair Carlosrellano, former Government Service InsurancSystem president Federico Pascual and Belle sources Corp. vice chair Willy Ng Ocier.

"At least a member of the dsion had personally heard the testimonies and the whole proceedings for the last nine months," Desierto said.

De Castro is the only permanent member of the Third Division, while Associate Justices Narciso Nario and Nicodemo Ferrer sit as temporary members. Nario and Ferrer are permanent members of the Fourth Division.

Aside from the cases pending with the Third Division, Estrada, his son Jinggoy, former First Lady, now Senator, Luisa "Loi" Ejercito, among others, are facing graft charges with the First Division. Except for Senator Ejercito, Estrada and the other accused are also being tried for perjury before the First Division.

Five divisions

The anti-graft court has five divisions and 14 justices, including Badoy and suspended Presiding Justice Francis Garchitorena.

According to Desierto, most of the justices in the first, third and fourth divisions would be retiring this year or early next year.

Only justices in the second and fifth divisions chaired by Associate Justice Eduardo Sandoval and Minita Chico-Nazario (who occupies Garchitorena's post in a temporary capacity), respectively, could be expected to continue to serve until next year.

Desierto lamented that the defense has "effectively delayed" the proceedings at the Sandigan.

"Imagine, the prosecution has presented only three witnesses in the nine months since the cases were filed. Admittedly, the defense had succeeded in delaying the proceedings, so there's no way that it should be allowed to be delayed further," he said.

From Gloria to Sharon, birthday greeting on air

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

SINGER and actor Sharon Cuneta got a surprise birthday greeting on television from no less than President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday.

The President had just concluded her weekly two-hour program, "May Gloria ang Bukas Mo," when she said over the show's theme music, "Jan. 6 is an important day because it is the birthday of our megastar, Sharon Cuneta."

In Filipino, Ms Macapagal went on to congratulate Cuneta for "being not only a megastar but also a senator's wife."

She said that aside from her achievements in show business, Cuneta had the added distinction of being the wife of neophyte Sen. Francis Pangilinan, who belongs to the administration bloc.

Cuneta will mark her 36th birthday today on her own weekly musical show.

The birthday greeting was not part of Ms Macapagal's program.

The President had already given her closing spiel, her interviewers had taken off their microphones, and the program's theme was playing when Ms Macapagal suddenly gave her special message.

It was the first time Ms Macapagal greeted someone a happy birthday on the air.

Televiewers, asked their impression of the presidential birthday greeting, said it appeared Ms Macapagal greeted Cuneta more because she was a friendly senator's wife than an entertainment superstar.

CUNETA

Earlier, after the tragic death of Nida Blanca in November, Ms Macapagal revealed in an interview that she was a fan of the late actress.

It was not known if the President was aware that Blanca and Cuneta shared the same birthday. Blanca would have turned 66 today.

The President's show was taped on Friday afternoon at the Estosan Hotel in Cotabato City, following the first Cabinet meeting held by the administration in Mindanao, which the President was visiting.

RP's 'other' airports to be rpaired

THE COUNTRY'S "other" airports—or those far from Metro Manila and other key cities—will undergo major rehabilitation this year in a government bid to further improve the country's aviation industry and develop other cities around the country.

Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez said the Macapagal administration would push for the rehabilitation and development of the alternate international airports in Pampanga, Davao City, Cotabato and others that serve as gateways to southern Philippines.

"We have started with the reduction of the landing and parking fees in the major airports. Now the administration would continue the rehabilitation program of the er airports for the industry and for countryse development," Alvarez said.

Foremost in the list is the osdado Macapagal International Airport at the forr Clark Air Base in Pampanga. Alvarez has alreadalled on the Bases Conversion and Development thority to rush the access roads leading to and frothe airport.

He has also called on Philipe Airlines to lead other local airlines in placing fhts to the DMIA to spur development in central Lun.

Alvarez, who had a series consultations with small industry players, had pled to provide adequate response to the pblems of small stakeholders to provide a more el playing field in the aviation industry.

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90th Anniversary Closing Ceremoies

On Thursday, 10 January 2002, Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide, Jwill visit the U.P. College of Law to close the 90th anniversary celebration of our foiding. U.P. President Nemenzo will deliver the opening remarks. Senate PresiderFranklin M. Drilon and U.P. law alumni in the Supreme Court, in Congress and in the binet have also been invited.

This is the culmination of a yearlong celebration that was opened lasear by the Chief Justice himself, who kindly took the time to join us at the hght of the Impeachment Trial. Since then, we have held monthly events to mark the iniversary, including, among others, the blessing of the Violeta Calvo-Drilon room anhe Justice Alex A. Reyes room; hosting The Hague Academy of International Lawession in Manila; the career guidance fora for our students; the launching of the ernet and Society program; academic fora on law and ethics, violence against women, ernational criminal law, law and medicine, and human rights and disability; the histcal photo-exhibit of Malcolm Hall; and most recently, the launching of severaCD-ROM publications, namely, the Administrative Register, the full transcripts and docnentation of the Impeachment Trial, and the Record and Proceedings of the 1986 Cstitutional Commission.

During the closing ceremonies to be held on the eve of our anniversarhe Dean, Dr. Raul C. Pangalangan, will formally present the U.P. law faculty to the Cif Justice.

All alumni are invited to attend the ceremonies to be held at 4 p.m., Thsday, 10 January 2002, at the Malcolm Theater.

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December 13, 2001

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, January 6, 2002
Solemnity of the Epiphany

1st Reading: **Is 60:1-6**

Arise, shine, for your light has come.

The Glory of Yahweh rises upon you.

Night still covers the earth and gloomy clouds veil the peoples, but Yahweh now rises and over you his glory appears.

Nations will come to your light and kings to the brightness of your dawn.

Lift up your eyes round about and see: they are all gathered and come to you, your sons from afar, your daughters tenderly carried.

This sight will make your face radiant, your heart throbbing and full; the riches of the sea will be turned to you, the wealth of the nations will come to you.

A flood of camels will cover you, caravans from Midian and Ephah.

Those from Sheba will come, bringing with them gold and incense, all singing in praise of Yahweh.

2nd Reading: **Eph 3:2-3, 5-6**

You may have heard of the graces God bestowed on me for your sake. By a revelation he gave me the knowledge of his mysterious design, as I have explained in a few words.

This mystery was not made known to past generations but only now, through revelations given to holy apostles and prophets. Now the non-Jewish people share the Inheritance; in Christ Jesus the non-Jews are incorporated and are to enjoy the Promise.

Gospel: **Mt 2:1-12**

When Jesus was born in Bethlehem, in Judea, during the days of King Herod, wise men from the east arrived in Jerusalem. They asked, "Where is the newborn king of the Jews? We saw the rising of his star in the east and have come to honor him." When Herod heard this he was greatly disturbed and with him all Jerusalem. He immediately called a meeting of all high-ranking priests and those who taught the people of God his Law, and asked them where the Messiah was to be born.

"In the town of Bethlehem in Judea," they told him, "for this is what the prophet wrote: *And you, Bethlehem, in the land of Judah, you are by no means the least among the clans of Judah, for from you will come a leader, the one who is to shepherd my people Israel.*"

Then Herod secretly called the wise men and asked them the precise time the star appeared. Then he sent them to Bethlehem with the instruction, "Go and get precise information about the child. As soon as you have found him, report to me, so that I too may go and honor him."

After the meeting with the king, they set out. The star that they had seen in the East went ahead of them and stopped over the place where the child was. The wise men were overjoyed on seeing the star again. They went into the house and when they saw the child with Mary his mother, they knelt and worshiped him. They opened their bags and offered him their gifts of gold, incense and myrrh.

In a dream they were warned not to go back to Herod, so they returned to their home country by another way.

Commentary

Jesus was born into the world in a silent and hidden manner, but God's purpose is for Jesus to be made known so that we all may know and be united with God in Jesus. Today's feast—Epiphany—celebrates Jesus' becoming known by the nations. The theme is of light: a glorious star is rising in the darkness. Jesus is becoming known, attracting us to himself. Today we remember that Star which signaled the birth of Christ. It's shining for us and inviting us, "Follow! Come and see!" We enter the house where Jesus lies, and gaze upon him and his mother. We watch the wise men offering gifts, and offer ourselves, our commitment to our work, family, community, nation, in union with Jesus who is committing himself to share our human journey.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CIVIL LAW (OBLIGATIONS AND CONTRACTS)—Doctrine of promissory estoppel— The doctrine of promissory estoppel is an exception to the general rule that a promise of future conduct does not constitute an estoppel. In some jurisdictions, in order to make out a claim of promissory estoppel, a part bears the burden or establishing the following elements: (1) a promise reasonably expected to induce action or forbearance; (2) such promise did in fact induce such action or forbearance; and (3) the party suffered detriment as a result. It is clear from the foregoing that the doctrine of promissory estoppel presupposes the existence of a promise on the part of one against whom estoppel is claimed. The promise must be plain and unambiguous and sufficiently specific so that the Judiciary can understand the obligation assumed and enforce the promise according to its terms. For petitioner to claim that respondent is estopped to deny the restructuring plan, he must first prove that respondent had promised to approve the plan in exchange for the submission of the proposal. No such promise was proven, therefore, the doctrine does not apply to the case at bar. A cause of action for promissory estoppel does not lie where an alleged oral promise was condition, so that reliance upon it was not reasonable. It does not operate to create liability where it does not otherwise exist. [Citations omitted.] [Justice De Leon, Jr., Second Division, Mendoza v. Court of Appeals, G.R. No. 116710, June 25, 2001]

Digest by R.B. Vera

Businesses desecrating Luneta–Ople

By Cynthia D. Balana

SEN. Blas Ople has appealed to Malacañang to stop the proliferation of fastfood restaurants and other business enterprises at the hallowed grounds of Rizal Park.

"Government ought to be ashamed of itself for abetting business on the soil where our national hero died," Ople said.

Ople said he would introduce a bill banning business establishments from operating at the national park and penalizing government offices that tolerate business establishments to operate in the famous landscape.

The senator likewise appealed to the Luneta Park Administration, the National Historical Institute, the Intramuros Administration and the city government of Manila to ensure that the park was effectively protected against commerce.

Ople earlier opposed the establishment of fastfood restaurants in the area that used to be known as the Bagumbayan during Spanish times and the Luneta before it was renamed Rizal Park.

He also questioned the construction of the Luneta Boardwalk behind the Quirino Grandstand, saying no public hearing to discuss the merits of the project was ever conducted.

According to Ople, the Boardwalk, a project of the Philippine Tourism Authority and the Manila city government, alters the beauty of the Rizal Park coast facing Manila Bay.

In 1997, Ople challenged the construction of the so-called Centennial Tower that former President Fidel Ramos had proposed to erect on the Rizal Park.

He said the monument would blight the park and dishonor the man for whom it was named.

The bill to be filed by Ople would also ban the construction of government offices on the park and immediate environs. Only the Rizal Park Administration offices have a legitimate right to have an address at the park.

Among the buildings located at the park were the National Historical Institute, the National Library, the Philippine National Bank and fastfood facilities.

Stop toll hike, GMA urged

By Cynthia D. Balana

THREE senators yesterday asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to suspend the toll increases as the Senate starts its investigation into this matter.

Senators Aquilino Pimentel, Teresa Aquino-Oreta and Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said a presidential intervention on the toll rate issue would be a positive development as the unexpected hikes were a disservice to the people.

Pimentel said he was seeking a Senate inquiry into the 36 to 60 percent increase in the toll at the South Luzon Expressway and the elevated Metro Skyway in the light of the widespread complaints from motorists.

He said that due process was not observed in reaching a decision to increase.

Pimentel said his assistance was sought by a group of motorists and traders that regularly use the two major arteries that connect Southern Tagalog and Metro Manila.

He said it was unfair for the people south of Manila to keep on paying toll for the use of the South Luzon Expressway when the investments in that passageway were supposed to have already been recovered from almost three decades of toll collections.

"Worse, the government continues to jack up the toll fees for the use of the old expressway," he said.

No public hearing

The toll increases took effect on Jan. 1 or less than two weeks after the public was notified about it by the Toll Regulatory Board (TRB) on Dec. 21 last year. Another toll hike was set to be imposed by July 1 this year.

According to Pimentel, the interest of the motorists and commuters was unduly impaired when they were deprived of their right to question the toll adjustment because the TRB did not hold any public hearing on this matter.

Oreta said that Malacañang should immediately suspend the rate adjustments pending a review of the exorbitant fee increases.

She said that the maintenance and expansion costs should have been factored in by the corporations running the tollways before they implemented these road projects.

"President Arroyo must give the public a much-needed breather from rising living costs and offset the measly fuel price reductions implemented by oil company giants," she said.

Magsaysay questioned the Skyway increases since over 80 percent of the construction costs incurred was used for the project, thus there was no need to increase the toll at the grade level.

Abenina: GMA is still my President

(From page A1)

vantes gave the Council for Philippine Affairs (Copa) a few hours before he was killed consisted of hearsay.

He said he was willing to face investigators looking into the murder of the self-styled spokesperson of the Young Officers' Union (YOU), a right-wing organization of middle-level military and police officers.

"There is no truth to the (allegations of) corruption (at the LTO). There are no documents," Abenina said of the documents Cervantes supposedly gave VACC chair Dante Jimenez a few days before Christmas.

He said the intelligence report Cervantes left at the house of Copa secretary general Pastor "Boy" Saycon on Dec. 31—which linked him and five others to a destabilization plot against the Macapagal administration—was also unsubstantiated.

Abenina participated in a coup attempt against the Aquino administration in December 1989, for which he was arrested and tried in a military tribunal.

He took part as well in the August 1987 coup attempt, and he was held for inverting the Philippine flag—to denote a state of war—at the office he occupied as chief of the Philippine Constabulary Regional Command in Cebu.

In the early 1990s he headed the negotiating panel of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa (RAM)-Soldiers of the Filipino People (SFP)-YOU for peace talks with the Ramos administration.

It was during those negotiations that Abenina met Cervantes.

Sulking

Abenina said Cervantes also tried to apply for work at the LTO early this year.

Told that there was no vacancy, Cervantes offered to handle the third-party liability insurance coverage required in the registration of land vehicles.

"I turned him down and I think he was sulking," Abenina said. "He also asked for financial assistance, and when I refused, he accused me of playing favorites."

Last June, Cervantes joined YOU chair Supt. Rafael Cardeño at a press conference wherein they expressed support for Abenina, who was then the subject of reports of corruption in the LTO.

The controversy turned ugly in October, with former Navy Commodore Domingo Calajate, also a key player in the 1989 coup attempt, openly accusing Abenina of anomalies at the LTO.

Early last month the President named Roberto Lastimoso, a former chief of the Philippine National Police, as Abenina's replacement.

But the turnover of the office was deferred because of a Commission on Elections resolution providing for a yearlong prohibition on candidates for elective positions from holding government posts.

Lastimoso ran as a sectoral representative in the May elections.

RAMboys

Investigators of the Southern Police District (SPD) will summon ranking RAM members in an attempt to solve Cervantes' murder.

Chief Supt. Jose Gutierrez, SPD director, said they would start tomorrow with RAM spokesperson Capt. Proceso Maligalig to "clarify some issues," including that concerning the YOU. "Maligalig will be asked to clarify issues on the existence of YOU as an organization because of the recent pronouncement of (YOU co-founder) Col. Danilo Lim that (it) has been disbanded," Gutierrez said. "We would like to know (whether) YOU is an underground group or it has already been disbanded."

Gutierrez stressed that the basis for their investigation was the exchange of text messages between Cervantes and RAM founding member Supt. Diosdado Valeroso, wherein YOU and its relation to RAM were lengthily discussed.

"There is talk that YOU is recruiting (members) and expanding but Lim has been claiming in the media that it was already disbanded," Gutierrez said. "So we have to clarify this with Maligalig."

The RAM spokesperson will also be asked what he knows of Cervantes' disclosure of alleged anomalies in the LTO.

Gutierrez said Valeroso, Copa's Saycon and others whose names were listed on Cervantes' cellular phone would also be summoned.

Burial

Cervantes, 35, will be buried at the Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City at 10 a.m. today.

Director Edgardo Aglipay, head of the National Capital Region Police Office, said 100 policemen would be deployed to provide security along the funeral route and at the cemetery.

Aglipay said that while a large crowd was expected at the burial, he did not foresee any security problem.

"Even those big personalities suspected to have had something to do with his killing have expressed sympathy," he noted, referring to Abenina, Valeroso, Cardeño, Maligalig, retired Col. Romeo Lim and Navy Lt. Senior Grade Donn Anthony Miraflor.

Cervantes tagged the six in his intelligence report as having clandestinely met last Christmas in Puerto Azul, Cavite, to discuss a coup plot against the administration. ***With reports from Alcuin Papa and TJ Burgonio***

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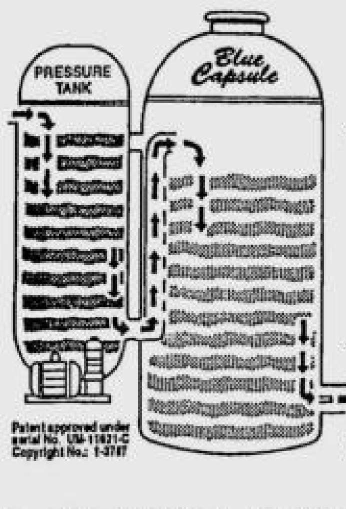

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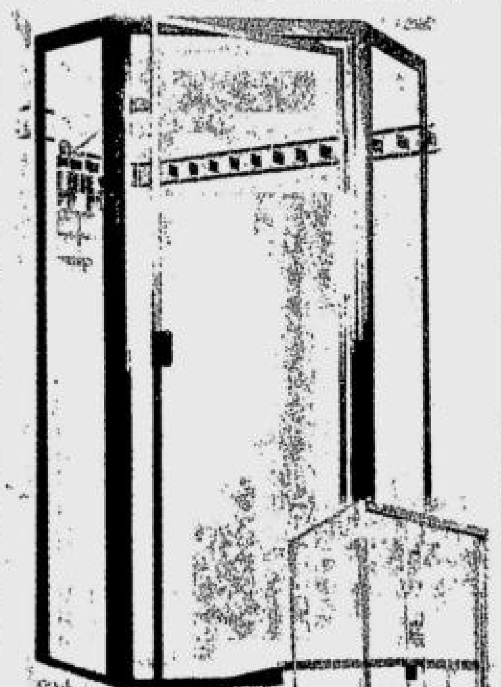

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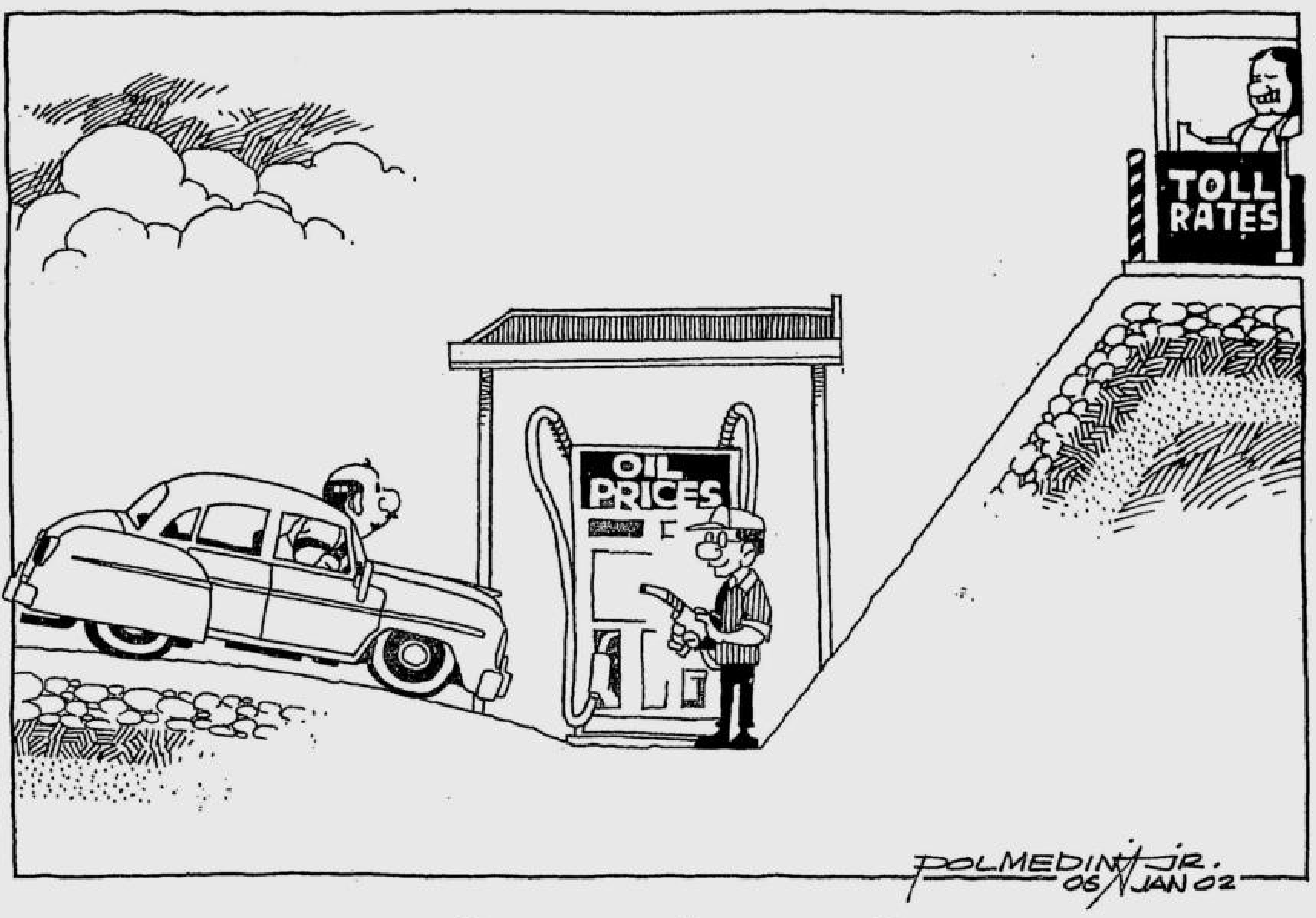

New Year Scrooges

EDITORIAL

IF there was anything last week that took the bloom off the New Year rose, even before it had fully emerged from the ground, it wasn't the killing of a former junior military officer apparently skilled in working both sides of the political fence. It was the fresh reports of a realignment in the Senate.

It reminded all of us that old habits die hard, and the oldest and ugliest—such as playing politics to serve selfish interests, rather than the nation's—hardly die at all.

There is plenty of blame to dish around. Since July, the Macapagal administration and its allies have been working with a tenuous 13-11 majority in the Senate. But instead of consolidating its grip in the upper chamber, and then expanding its hold, the administration has played defense all the way. In one sense, it couldn't do otherwise; the task of passing crucial legislation (the anti-money laundering bill, the 2002 budget) strained the resources and reserves of an administration that already had its hands full defending itself against politically motivated scandals and prosecuting an unprecedented capital case against a former president. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's call for a moratorium on politicking only served to burden the administration, preventing it from raiding the ranks of the opposition.

But from the perspective not only of political survival but of transition-era governance, it is the administration's duty to strengthen its majority. Much of the business of government is coursed through the legislature; a weak link in either House is therefore a hindrance for an executive as goal-oriented and timetable-driven as this one. We know the old saying: a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. In politics, to coin a new one, we can say an administration is only as fast as its slowest member.

That the administration continues to be vulnerable to talk of realignment in the Senate, the majority coalition led by Senate President Franklin Drilon has primarily itself to blame. What is it waiting for, before it seeks to consolidate its majority? The next election, or a timely death in the opposition?

But if the Senate majority has been complacent, the minority has been opportunistic.

The current round of realignment talks, let us remind ourselves, was started by the opposition. It is quite possible that when Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. started talking of a possible Senate coup by announcing that two administration senators were disenchanted with the majority, he was, to appropriate the language of the street, late for the news. No matter. It made for good copy. As it turned out, the apparent source of friction between Drilon and some senators was narrowed down to conflict over committee assignments. But it did not hurt the opposition to publicize this alleged internal rift; in the politics of innuendo, a denial is not as dramatic as the barest allegation.

What made the opposition's disclosure more suspect was the press release from Sen. Edgardo Angara's camp, alleging confidence in the continued performance of Pimentel as minority leader. Only last month, the minority agreed to continue with the term-sharing agreement between Pimentel and Angara. What gives? Something is not quite right here.

Of all current Senate coup players, however, it is Sen. John Osmeña who positively takes the cake. He has admitted being "dissatisfied" with the majority, not because he has a problem working with Drilon, but because, with its slim majority, the administration coalition has "always been under the gun." Well, he should know, because during the budget deliberations late last year he threatened to pull the trigger himself. Taking offense at Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho's lack of response to a question about corruption in the Cebu customs office, Osmeña made an unequivocal threat: remove the offending customs official before the end of the week or he would abandon the majority coalition.

He won that particular battle, but is Drilon's majority now in danger of losing the war? Osmeña complains of a slim majority, but it was his tantrum late last year that showed senators on both sides just how temptingly slim it was.

Can we win a war?

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

A CHILLING thought gripped me the other day while I was savoring the many blessings our country is enjoying compared to many other developing nations. What would happen, I wondered, if we should find ourselves at war with China over the Spratly Islands or, less ominously, a tiny state like Qatar over our overseas workers or Colombia over drug trafficking operations?

If the enemy were China, I doubt if the United States would risk impairing its thawing relations with it for our benefit, never mind our mutual defense treaty. China is certainly more important to the Americans than we are, for political and economic reasons. Neither would our supposed ally lift a finger in our conflict with the other belligerent state, which could also be among its steadfast supporters. It may be offering more profits to Wall Street than our country and its plummeting peso.

So, if we were left alone to fight our own battles; how would the Republic of the Philippines fare against the enemy?

When the Pacific War broke out in 1941, our people were filled with patriotic fervor and bravely urged one another to "Keep 'em flying!"—meaning the Philippine and American flags. Yet, in less than a month, despite the protection of the United States (which was soon revealed as a paper tiger, at least at that time), the Japanese had installed their occupation government in the Philippines while the USAFFE desperately holed up in Bataan and Corregidor to wage a "holding action." MacArthur fled to Australia.

My guess is that, under present conditions, the Philippines would surrender to the enemy within the same period, at most, for lack of the capacity if not the will to fight.

For one thing, we have a most indecisive commander in chief who can hardly provide an inspiring example of leadership to the Armed Forces. It's not because she's a woman; Indira Gandhi was a tower of strength when she was prime minister of India. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo was tickled pink when the London-based Financial Times called her the "Iron Lady of Asia," but how would it know from far-off England?

Ms Macapagal, to take only one tawdry example, has hemmed and hawed over the Misuari affair, to the puzzled annoyance of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia. As of this writing, the renegade Misuari has yet to be returned to our government at our request, if indeed such a request has been made. Out of exasperation over our President's indecisiveness, Mahathir might yet get rid of the unwelcome fugitive and allow him to escape to another country.

President Macapagal strikes many as a mere politician who would not hesitate to break bread with the likes of Mike Velarde, a former political adversary, with her eye on 2004. Our soldiers cannot be expected to follow her where her ultimate target is potential electoral rivals and not the foreign enemy. They may feel that she is using the military not so much to fight the war as to raise her stock in the coming presidential campaign, which is still three years from now. Her vacillations may endanger our defense strategy and put the lives of our soldiers at peril.

For another, our Armed Forces are not equipped to fight an international war when they cannot even cope with the Abu Sayyaf. The generals had boasted as early as two years ago that they had trapped the bandit group, but it has not only eluded them but also even grown in number and strength to thumb its nose at the government. In addition, there are the NPA, the MILF and the resurrected MNLF, let alone the kidnappers and assassins, all snapping at their heels. The government keeps saying that everything is under control, but whose control?

Our authorities have practically capitulated to Jose Ma. Sison's arrogant demand that the NPA be recognized as a belligerent group; they have probably been dazzled by his three-piece suit. Luis Jalandoni enjoys celebrity status as another dissident leader although he is no longer a Filipino, having renounced his native citizenship along with his priesthood. And now comes Nur Misuari, the wasted captain of his ragtag MNLF, who appears to be the latest phantom terrifying our government with his rusted *kampilan*.

The terrible truth is that with all our scores of generals in their be-medaled uniforms, our Armed Forces are a disorganized, ill-equipped and demoralized entity that does not have the discipline and preparation of a respectable military organization. They cannot be expected to defend our country in case of invasion by a foreign country because they cannot even suppress the local dissidence. This has been plaguing us since the heyday of the Huk movement and up to even the present time when our soldiers are supposed to be better armed and funded.

The current general appropriations bill has allocated as much as P10 billion to the Armed Forces, much more than to other essential services of the government. There is a surge of military activity during budget time, but once Congress grants their requested outlay, the Armed Forces resume their lackadaisical military operations against the local insurgents. If they cannot capture our own homegrown subversives, how can we expect them to fight and win a war with a foreign foe?

I mean no slight upon the rank and file of our Armed Forces for there is no doubting their patriotism and courage in defending the State against internal and external aggression. It is their leadership that is in issue, from the commander in chief to the generals and colonels and the rest of the elite officer corps. They have so far not proved their competence and motivation to galvanize the rest of the military establishment to victory, whether against domestic disquietude or external belligerence.

Meantime, let us pray for peace on earth, especially in our country. We cannot expect the Armed Forces to save us, but God can.

Star talk

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

TRADITIONALLY, today, Jan. 6, is the Feast of the Three Kings, the Magi, or the Three Wise Men. We are not sure of their number, but we are certain that they were men. Someone texted me that if it had been three wise women instead, they would have asked for directions first, they would have arrived on time to help deliver the baby, they would have cleaned the stable, cooked dinner and brought practical gifts!

* * *

The Gospel today (Mt. 2, 1-2) speaks of the Magi from the East who followed the star and found the Child with Mary His mother. They prostrated themselves and did Him homage, offering gold, frankincense and myrrh. Gold for a King, frankincense for a God, and myrrh for the embalming of Someone who was to suffer and die for the world. The message of the Epiphany (revelation) is clear: Jesus Christ is the Savior of the world and the Savior for all. May His light shine on far and wide.

* * *

To this day, two-thirds of the world's population have not yet seen or have not yet fully accepted the light of Christ. There's a big world out there that has not yet heard the Good News about a God who became one like us, was killed by us, but rose again to give us new life.

What have you done, what are you doing to help spread the light? Have you yourself fully accepted, and thus live by, and reflect His light?

* * *

The Magi followed the star and found Jesus. The problem with many of us is that we want to be the star, so we never find Jesus. Jesus is not in your life? That's because you are always *pa*-starring and *pa*-superstarring *pa*. Learn to fade away and dim your lights, and then, you can see the star.

* * *

Take a good look at the shape of the star and you'll see two big triangles overlapping each other, one pointing up and the other pointing down. It signifies God reaching out to humanity, and humanity reaching out to God. The most prominent Christmas decor in the Philippines is the *parol*, the star, that should remind us to continue to reach out to God, and allow ourselves to be reached by God, even when it is not Christmas.

Notice too how the star spreads out wide. It should also remind us to reach out and spread our arms in welcome for one another. If only as a reminder, why don't we display our *parol* the whole year round? Why not, indeed?

* * *

Invert the word "star" and you have "rats." Rats are those that live in the dark and in the shadows. They are not the children of the light, but of the underworld.

The problem with our country is that there are too many rats, planning and scheming ways and means to have more money and power and using the darkness for shady deals. They are the ones who feast on the coffers, the *kaban ng bayan*, while our people go hungry and deprived. Tsk, tsk. Too many fat rats, too many greedy politicians and public servants *kuno* in our country. Too many rats too in the police and the military.

Have you noticed how many of the troubles and woes in our country have been caused and continue to be caused by people who have a star(s) or who dream of a star(s) on their shoulders? *Maawa naman kayo sa Pilipinas!*

In spite of shadows and darkness, the star should give us hope and direction. We must count our blessings and move forward. Like the fishermen who find their way back to shore by looking at the stars on a dark night, let us continue to row hard, and keep our eyes on the Star of our earth, the Star of our lives.

* * *

This week I sat between a couple who just could not hold on to each other anymore. It was such a painful experience for them—and also for me—to accept the reality that their love was dead. Eight years of marriage gone down the drain.

May we always be guided by the Star in whatever decisions we make in life. There are so many distracting lights in this world. We must never remove our gaze from the Star as we journey on.

* * *

Is there anything, a problem, a person, a worry, a concern that burdens you right now? "Face the light, and the shadow is behind you." As long as we run away and refuse to face the light, we will always have the shadow in front of us wherever we go. The bottom line is that in the end, we all will face the light, so, while we are still alive, let us learn to face the light and allow ourselves to be embraced by the Light.

* * *

I sort of miss the joy, the suspense, the uplifting feeling that Christmas and New Year bring. Don't you wish it was Christmas and New Year every day? But it can't be. Focus on the Star, and make every day Christmas by being a loving and giving person. Make every new day a New Year by being hopeful and grateful for new beginnings.

Here's wishing you all a whole year filled with love and new beginnings.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, star of my life, shine on me and lead me on. Amen.

Cracks in Israeli leadership

NEWS ANALYSIS

Claire Snegaroff

> 'Instead of policies there is only one large theater with lots of decoration'

JERUSALEM—The task of US special envoy Anthony Zinni, back in the region for a second attempt at bringing Israel and the Palestinians back to a ceasefire, has been further complicated by the growing divisions in the Israeli leadership over how soon to implement existing truce accords.

Ahead of his second visit, differences of opinion between right-wing Prime Minister Ariel Sharon and dovish Foreign Minister Shimon Peres have widened into a serious rift over when truce talks should begin. While both agree there has been a drop in violence on the ground since Zinni's last trip, they have each drawn very different conclusions over what to do next.

For Sharon, a hardline former general, the fall in unrest in the past two weeks is far from enough to start implementing the Tenet understanding, a US-drafted ceasefire deal that would set the scene for the Mitchell plan to go into effect. The Mitchell plan allows for confidence-building measures, the freezing of Jewish settlements in the Palestinian territories, arrest of militants by the Palestinian police and the seizure of illegal Palestinian weapons. Instead, Sharon is demanding seven days of absolute calm before agreeing to sit down to truce talks. He says the newfound calm is not the result of steps by Arafat to clamp down on extremists but rather of the Israeli army's own raids into Palestinian land to snatch suspected militants.

Peres has by contrast said that it would be "a very good time" to start to implement the Tenet understanding if calm prevails for the next several days and amid a return to the region of US envoy Anthony Zinni. "If calm continues for the next two or three days it would be a very good time to start the implementation of the Tenet plan," Peres said Tuesday.

Without trying to play the long path still ahead, Peres said he would not "treat with suspicion" the efforts by Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat to enforce calm after calling for an end to attacks on Israel on Dec. 16, a day after Zinni was recalled amid a tidal wave of violence.

Transport Minister Ephraim Sneh, who is close to Peres, said the sudden calm "justifies the start of contacts, even if pressure on Yasser Arafat is not to be lifted."

The position of the left-wing of the coalition government is close to the demands of the Palestinians, who want an immediate application of both Tenet and Mitchell plans.

The divisions between Peres and Sharon grew on Wednesday when Peres said that promised easing of travel restrictions in the Palestinian territories had failed to materialize.

Ties had already been strained when Sharon publicly denied that Peres and Palestinian parliamentary speaker Ahmed Qorei had been discussing a plan for the fast-track establishment of a Palestinian state. A day later Sharon grudgingly admitted he had given the green light to contacts between the two men, but stressed the talks were not of a political nature.

And Sharon, holding together a broad coalition government already bulging at the seams amid disputes of the 2002 budget which has still not been passed, ran afoul of Israeli President Moshe Katsav this week, a member of his right-wing Likud party. Sharon vetoed a move by Katsav to appear before the Palestinian parliament and back the idea of a year-long ceasefire.

Despite the increasing differences, the 78-year-old Peres has refused to leave the government.

The head of the left-wing opposition, Yossi Sarid, said Peres' maneuvers were playing into Sharon's hands and the Nobel laureate was providing the right-winger with an "alibi" in the face of world opinion.

"All the actors know their roles and play them out. As a result, instead of policies there is only one large theater with lots of decoration."

AFP

We are all hobbits

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"I AM in fact a hobbit in all but size," John Ronald Reuel (JRR) Tolkien once told an interviewer. Maybe that's the reason he made Frodo, a young hobbit, the hero of his trilogy "The Lord of the Rings." In this he defied storytelling conventions that decreed that the leader of a quest should be brave, honorable, pure of heart, a master of martial arts, and most of all, heroic in stature and handsome as all get-out.

Small in stature, stocky in build, with homely features, tattered clothes and a pair of huge, hairy feet, a hobbit is nowhere near a heroic figure. Tolkien described hobbits (his own literary creation) this way: their "faces were as a rule good-natured rather than beautiful, broad, bright-eyed, red-cheeked, with mouths apt to laughter, and to eating and drinking. And laugh they did, and eat, and drink, often and heartily, being fond of simple jests at all times, and of six meals a day (when they could get them). They were hospitable and delighted in parties, and in presents, which they gave away freely and eagerly accepted."

Hobbits, in Tolkien's imagined universe, are relatives of humans, "far nearer to us than Elves, or even than Dwarves." They were little people who "seemed of very little importance" until, in the days of Bilbo, the adventurous hobbit and his heir Frodo, "they suddenly became, by no wish of their own, both important and renowned, and troubled the counsels of the Wise and Great."

But I wonder. If Tolkien were so inclined, and had surveyed the peoples of the earth for a nation that best resembled his beloved hobbits, would he have chosen us Pinoys? If I ever had doubted this conceit, I needed only Tolkien's confirmation that hobbits ate six meals a day to clinch my argument.

In the film version, the only concern of Frodo's hobbit companions as they start off on their quest is whether they would ever be able to indulge in their "second breakfast." "And what about elevenses?" asks Merry (or is it Pippin?). How very much like us Pinoys, who will walk to the ends of the earth (or flock to Edsa) to follow a leader and pursue a dream, provided there are enough sandwiches and squid balls to sustain the pursuit.

* * *

THE QUEST that begins the moment Frodo accepts Gandalf's challenge to take the "One Ring" with him and leave the safety and tranquility of The Shire is more than just a grand adventure. It is a mission that has no less than the survival of all Middle Earth at stake.

As "Lord of the Rings" begins, evil is afoot in Mordor, kingdom of Sauron the Dark Lord. True, in ages past, Gil-galad, the Elven-king and Elendil, King of Westernesse, had led their armies and overthrown the Dark Lord. But Isildur, son of Elendil, failed to destroy the One Ring that had fallen to his possession when he cut off Sauron's hand. Instead, mesmerized by the power and malice of the ring, which Sauron had crafted himself and into which he had poured all his power and his evil, Isildur tries to keep and use it for himself. For his failure of will, Isildur paid with his life.

Hidden in the crevices of a lake inside a cave, the ring is of no help to bring Sauron back to his old powers. But, having fallen into the possession of Bilbo, Frodo's uncle, the ring has called forth the powers of its master, and slowly, Sauron is gaining strength, corrupting and destroying the other kingdoms of Middle Earth. It is clear the One Ring must be destroyed before all of Middle Earth is overtaken by darkness.

The Council of Elrond, which the leaders of the remaining free peoples of Middle Earth attend, decides that the best course is to bring the One Ring to the bowels of Mordor itself. The only way to destroy this evil object is to hurl it into the fires of Mount Doom, where it was forged.

And the bearer of the ring? Frodo, the young hobbit. For as Elrond declares: "I think this task is appointed for you Frodo; and that if you do not find a way, no one will. This is the hour of the Shire-folk, when they arise from their quiet fields to shake the towers and counsels of the Great. Who of all the Wise could have foreseen it? Or, if they are wise, why should they expect to know it, until the hour has struck?"

* * *

FRODO seems an odd choice. And yet, the nature of the quest itself calls for a ring bearer with little power or guile, who has no ambitions beyond survival and six meals a day. As Gandalf explains to Boromir, the human warrior who believes the One Ring could and should be wielded for good: "Its strength, Boromir, is too great for anyone to wield at will, save only those who have already a great power of their own. But for them it holds an even deadlier peril. The very desire of it corrupts the heart…as long as it is in the world it will be a danger even to the Wise. For nothing is evil in the beginning. Even Sauron was not so. I fear to take the Ring to hide it. I will not take the Ring to wield it."

Throughout the three books, others will try to take the ring from Frodo, and Frodo is himself sorely tempted to pass to others the burden and the danger of bearing the ring to its destruction. Along the way, Frodo and his faithful servant Sam, along with the other Companions of the Ring, must face mortal danger and the menace of the Dark Lord and his minions.

The small shall lead the powerful, the weak will save the strong. For hobbits, as for Filipinos, there is comfort in this thought.

The fear of coups

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

WHO'S afraid of coups? People who invoke the law to defend privilege, those who justify power by pointing at institutions, and those who oppose all change except that which they can manage—they are afraid of coups.

But those who measure their rights by the norms of substantive justice, those who affirm their power by pointing at results, and those who have the fatal courage to pursue change at any cost—they are not afraid of coups. The wrong response to rumors of an impending coup is to pronounce that coups are passé, or that they will not succeed, or worse, that they are unconstitutional. It is enough to say, "Let the people decide."

Like revolutions and people power uprisings, military coups are extra-constitutional routes to political change. They express a belief in the primacy of politics and the fragility of institutions. With a history of martial law, three people power explosions, and seven coup attempts in a period of 30 years, it will not be easy for Filipinos to go back to a naïve faith in constitutional order. Our reliance on extra-constitutional means of effecting change will grow in proportion to our disenchantment with our flawed institutions and with the very leaders we thrust into power.

Coup rumors flourish especially in the afterglow of momentous political events. The energy from these events crystallizes into a storm of impatient expectations demanding to be appeased. The new leaders ride on the enthusiasm of the moment. Instead of presenting a candid picture of the situation and the sustained and disciplined effort required to reverse it, they pledge unrealistic solutions to problems accumulated over successive periods of misgovernment. Very soon, they run up against their own limitations. Their failure provides the occasion for new forces to emerge or for old ones to reassemble.

The Macapagal administration, which was brought to power by Edsa II, tried to protect itself against the threat of coups by co-opting key military leaders through appointments to cushy positions in government agencies and corporations. This strategy silenced a few officers, but it also added to the dissension within the military.

It is immaterial whether the original Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) and the Young Officers Union (YOU) still exist or have vanished. When idealistic officers see their elders behave like corrupt politicians, they are released from the compulsions of command. If they are intelligent and have the boldness of their convictions, they will imagine themselves as being called upon to save the nation. They will form new organizations.

This is not to say that there are not an equal number of opportunists in uniform who encourage rumors of a coup for no higher reason than to secure political or economic benefits for themselves. Professional soldiers know who they are, and they don't trust them. Serious coup plotters do not talk about their plans; they avoid media resolutely, preferring to remain anonymous until the moment of seizure of power.

In today's world, military coups are becoming less and less the preferred means for effecting social change. The problems of governance in a globalized environment have become so complex that even the most adventurous military officers would have to think twice before they dare assume responsibility for a whole nation. Things have to be truly bad and hopeless under civilian leadership for the general public to cooperate with military rulers. Given today's communications technology, civil society movements can mobilize popular resistance against a military dictatorship before it is able to secure control of communication channels.

Yet, for all this, a growing number of Filipinos who have become cynical and contemptuous of politicians seem ready to welcome a willful authoritarian leadership that can instill discipline and inject ethical conduct into our public affairs. Two historic problems seem to lie at the root of this growing national despair. The first is persistent mass poverty, and the second is pervasive corruption.

It is now clear that the degrading poverty in which more than half of our people are forced to live is not a simple function of insufficient economic growth. It is rather the composite product of gross disparities in wealth, power and opportunity in our society. The state can no longer afford to assign to market mechanisms the task that constitutes its very reason for being: to look after the essential needs of its people. Philippine poverty is not an issue of scarcity but of distribution, yet successive administrations continue to ignore this.

Corruption feeds upon this state of affairs even as it reproduces it. Instead of being an instrument for equalizing opportunity and serving the general interest, government is hijacked in the name of narrow interests. Public office goes to big spenders, who get elected precisely because their money and connections permit them to respond to the short-term needs of the impoverished, the ignorant and the powerless. Once in power, these political entrepreneurs try to recover a hundred-fold what they spent during elections. And so the cycle of patronage and plunder continues, drawing new generations of players into its vicious ways. It is the thought of finally breaking up this cycle that makes coups seductive.

We should not fear coups. We should instead try to harness the "energy of will" that seems to fuel them—the will to adjust to new circumstances, to grow out of a social order that no longer serves our people.

* * *

Comments to rdavid@pacific.net.ph

Why is peace so elusive?

COMMENTARY

Nandy Pacheco

EVERYONE talks about peace. Everyone wants peace. But every-time we talk about peace, there is war, there is violence. Every time we talk about law and order, there is violence and criminality.

Why is peace so elusive? The reason is we are pursuing the wrong kind of peace, that is, the peace that the world gives based on the principle of "an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth." Arm yourself and you'll have peace. Violence should be met with violence. Get even. Don't let him get away with it. In time of peace, prepare for war. Enforce the law of force, not the force of law.

By the laws, policies, rules and regulations of the government, and by the attitude and behavior of our government officials and many politicians, we promote the gun culture, the culture of death and violence, and the reign of fear.

What then is the kind of peace we should pursue? The Holy Book gives us the answer. Speaking through the prophet Isaiah, God said: "People shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise sword against another, nor shall they train for war again." (Isaiah, 2:4)

"You shall not kill." (Ex. 20:13; Deut 5:17)

"Keep far from the man who has power to kill, and you will not be filled with the dread of death." (Sir. 9:13)

"No matter the wrong, do no violence to your neighbor." (Sir. 10:6)

"I will free you from the hand of the wicked, and rescue you from the grasp of the violent." (Jer. 15:21)

The Sermon on the Mount. The Beatitudes. "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." (Mt. 5:9)

Teaching about retaliation. "You have heard that it was said, 'An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.' But I say to you, offer no resistance to one who is evil. When someone strikes you on your right cheek, turn the other to him as well." (Mt. 5:38-39)

Mutual love. "Beloved, do not look for revenge but leave room for the wrath; for it is written, 'Vengeance is mine, I will repay,' says the Lord." (Rom. 12:19)

"Do not be conquered by evil but conquer evil with good." (Rom. 12:21)

"Be on guard and take care never to accompany men of violence." (Sir. 13:13)

What do some biblical commentators say? "The message of Jesus, as I understand it, is contained in the Sermon on the Mount…It is that Sermon which has endeared Jesus to me," wrote Mahatma Gandhi. "A good many Jews can repeat that statement just as sincerely as they can accept Gandhi's subsequent criticism: 'The message, to my mind, has suffered distortion in the West…Much of what passes as Christianity is a negation of the Sermon on the Mount.'" (Pinchas Lapide, "The Sermon on the Mount")

"Jesus applies to himself the rules which he laid down in the Sermon on the Mount. The Gospel teaches the way of nonviolence, and Jesus takes it first." ("Das Evangelium nach Matthaus," 1969, Herder and Herder)

"Fulfilling the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus backs up his teaching by the actual deeds of his passion. This lays the foundation for real obedience." (Edward Schweizer, "The Good News according to Matthew")

"The Beatitude does not hold out a blessing to the peaceful, nor to those who yearn for peace, but to the peacemakers." (D.A. Carson, "Evangelical Expositions of Matthew")

Pope John Paul II, while on a visit to Zagreb at the height of the Bosnian war, said: "It's time to abandon the language of arms."

Calling for progressive disarmament, Pope John XXIII said: "Justice, right reason and humanity urgently demand that the arms race should cease; that the stockpiles which exist in various countries should be reduced equally and simultaneously by the parties concerned; that nuclear weapons should be banned; and that a general agreement should eventually be reached about progressive disarmament and an effective control."

For his part, Pope Paul VI said: "If you wish to be brothers, let the arms fall from your hands. One cannot love while holding offensive arms."

At the Second Plenary Council of the Philippines (PCP-II), convened by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines, in Makati in 1991, one of the resolutions approved states:

"All sectors of the Church must actively work for an end to the production and manufacture of the technology of death and the arms trade as part of its vision of peace.

"The conciliar document cites active nonviolence of 'people power' in 1986 and the move toward a 'gunless society' as 'illustrative of the strategy and of the spirit of active nonviolence.'"

Because of the close relationship between weapons and violence, "arms can never be treated like ordinary commercial goods," the Pontifical Justice and Peace Council says.

Paul's letter to the Romans (Rom. 12:2) says: "Do not conform yourself to this age but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and pleasing and perfect."

If Jesus were alive today, and I ask him the following: "Jesus, would you allow me to buy and keep a gun to protect myself and loved ones? Would you allow me to engage in the business of manufacturing and selling of armaments?" What do you think Jesus will tell me?

It's easy to say, "Yes, to peace, no to violence." But can we say with conviction, "We reject the instruments of violence. No to the instruments of violence. And yes to arms control"?

As we begin the year 2002, my prayer is that we all live up to the call of Jesus to be peacemakers in our time and situation, and, that as we respond in faith to his call to repentance and transformation, we may become instruments of his peace, be a light to others, and bring about Isaiah's prophecy: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; one nation shall not raise the sword against another, nor shall they train for war again."

President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo and Congress should pursue the peace that Christ gives based on love, justice, reconciliation, active nonviolence and progressive disarmament. They should show to non-Christians, by deed more than word, that the love taught to us by Christianity is not to love only fellow Christians, but to love everyone. They should also declare as contrary to public policy, public morals, public order, good customs, the common good, public interest, and public welfare, the glorification of guns, sex and lust in movies, television, radio, print media, billboards, pro-gun stickers, etc. And finally, they should work to get guns off the streets except for those who are authorized, in uniform and on duty.

Nandy Pacheco is the founder of the Gunless Society.

THEY SAID

No comment

"…It has not even crossed the mind of the President to determine who would be the threat and who wouldn't."

—Presidential Spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao when asked whether Sen. Panfilo Lacson was the opposition's strongest prospective candidate for president in 2004

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TALK OF THE TOWN

JOHN NERY, Editor

Join the discussion. E-mail us at talk@inquirer.com.ph

INSIDE THE FEEDBACK LOOP:

Revisiting the rice issue

REFLECTING the iconic status of rice as a political commodity, the response to the expensive rice issue raised last month was intense. In a sense, framing the rice problem as "expensive" or not was already delimiting it, approaching it from a consumerist point of view. What about the rice farmer's own perspective? From the standpoint of productivity, what needs to be done? In her yearend economic report, the President upped the ante for rice, pledging to provide high-yield Chinese stock and at the same time pegging the staple to inflation—thus marrying productivity and price.

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For the country's rice farmer, the challenge isn't so much price as productivity

Rice is never a raw material

BY VICENTE L. DOMINGO
National Chair, Kapisanan ng Magsasaka, Mangingisda at Manggagawa ng Pilipinas Inc.

IN HER yearend economic report aired nationwide on Dec. 29, the President equated inflation with the price of rice. She practically said that *the* safety net against the ill effects of globalization was the policy that we should never allow the price of rice to increase. This is why we have at least 1,000 rolling stores of the National Food Authority still selling rice at P14.

While most farmers do not understand economics, it saddens those who do that the President has the wrong basis for inflation. The truth is, the price of rice should not at all be equated with inflation. It is unfortunate that our political leaders and economists have concluded that any increase in the price of rice is a failure of good governance. It is for this sorry reason that no one wants to discuss the deregulation of the grains industry, to allow farmers, who comprise a majority of our population and income earners, a bigger share of the profits.

For our leaders, rice is the only measurement of good or bad economics and of leadership; hence, they must keep down the price of rice by all means. In the process, however, they are limiting the profitability of rice and corn farming and sacrificing growth in the countryside and in the domestic market.

Any student, reading his basic book on economics or even any encyclopedia, knows that inflation is directly related to the monetary policy of government—not to the ability of farmers to produce more rice and corn. As things stand, because of government control through the NFA's rice and corn imports, strategically released at controlled prices every time the prices of rice and corn go up, any incremental increase in production means more losses for the farmer. He therefore cannot produce more than what he needs for him to pay his debts.

The reality is, if the government prints more money, the price of rice (given the same volume of production by our small farmers) will always go up. Because there is more money circulating than the amount of rice available in the market at a given time.

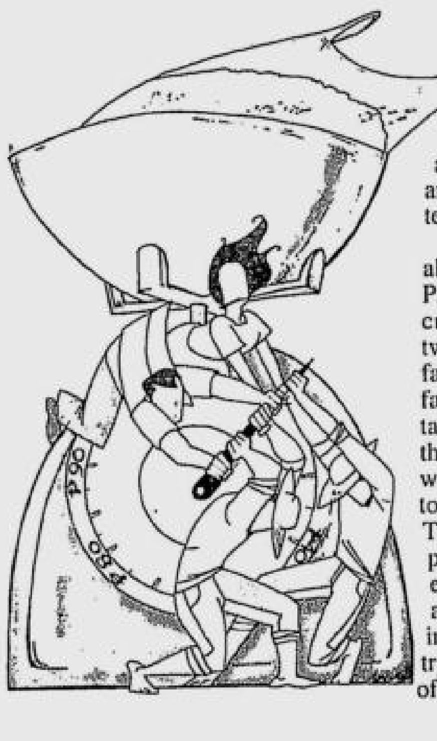
If the President has to peg any product to inflation, it should be oil, not rice. This is because oil is the raw material of industrial products and machinery, of consumer goods like soap and consumer services like jeepney rides. Any increase in the price of oil has a direct effect on these goods and services, and thus on the prices of the items in the basket of goods.

Rice, on the other hand, is never a raw material.

Rice crisis

Rice and politics have always been strange bedfellows. A rice crisis always lowers the popularity of any politician. The removal of Sec. Roberto Sebastian, agriculture secretary during the Ramos administration, is only the latest case in point.

He was instrumental in increasing the incomes of our small farmers by refusing to certify that there was a rice shortage, thus preventing the NFA from importing rice. Instead, he went direct to the farmers and encouraged them to produce more, which the farmers did.



It was at this point that the price went up to P26 per kilo, and farmers started to have disposable incomes again, buying water pumps, tractors and appliances again.

Consumer groups, however, lobbied for the removal of Sebastian. The farmers countered that if the urban poor could buy Coca-Cola at P26 per bottle, there was no reason they could not buy a kilo of rice at P26 also. However, the government and the consumer groups ignored this argument, and Sebastian was eased out of office.

I still remember one multi-sectoral roundtable with President Fidel Ramos very clearly. He asked all the sectors represented what to do with the rising price of rice. Every sector answered that we must import, otherwise there would be a rice crisis. For the farming sector, however, I argued that "while everyone is sad because of the increase in prices of rice, our farmers were happy because now we have more disposable income after paying our debts and can buy more farm tools and more farm inputs to produce more, and (buy) more clothing, appliances, and (improvements for) shelter."

We urged the government to allow the price of rice to go up to P50 per kilo, to dramatically increase the purchasing power of two-thirds of the population. The farmers could then buy more manufactured goods, enabling the capitalists to profit more and to increase the salaries of their employees and wage earners, allowing them in turn to buy rice even at higher prices. This way, we argued, we can shift profitability and wealth to the farmers, instead of just a few industrialists and capitalists. This will user in a new economic order in the country and more equitable distribution of wealth.

Domestic market

Why is there unemployment? Because there is no domestic market for the consumer goods being produced by our factories. Why is there no domestic market? Because the majority of the population, which is composed of the farming sector, have no purchasing power to speak of.

Why don't they have purchasing power? This is because their only source of livelihood and income is planting rice and corn, which is regulated to satisfy consumers. They cannot shift to high-value crops to earn more money, because their farms are waterlogged and these are the only crops they can grow during the rainy season that is at least also typhoon-tolerant. Now, as things stand, and because of the deregulation of their farm inputs like gasoline, fertilizer, credit and labor, they are barely breaking—even as the price of their palay is regulated by the NFA in the guise of a price support. The more they produce palay, the more they lose money because of the high and unregulated cost of farm inputs and agricultural credit.

But the solution to inflation and unemployment is through agriculture. By allowing the price of palay and rice to seek their own levels, more of the money will now be placed in the hands of our small farmers without necessarily triggering inflation. This will give them the purchasing power to buy more shoes (from Marikina), more clothing (from Taytay), more canned goods and more appliances. This way, these industries can now pay higher wages and salaries, so that the employees and laborers can afford to buy rice even at double the price. Eventually, the price of rice will level off, because the farmers with better prices can now produce more (they are producing at only 50 percent of their actual capacity).

This economic approach has already been proven during Masagana 99, when the money supply through liberal credit was transferred to the hands of farmers. Because of this, they were able to buy more appliances, more beer, more consumer products. And we had a surplus in rice production and exports.

What we are saying here is that there is no other solution to our economic problems except by insuring the growth and wealth of our agriculture sector in order to expand our domestic market. We only need to understand that when we have a rich barangay, we can have a rich town, and when we have a rich town, we can have a rich province, and when we have a rich province, we have a rice nation. Need we say more?

Agriculturist and administrator Domingo is also a member of the Board of Agriculture of the Professional Regulation Commission

Focus on the root: farmer productivity

BY ANTONIO P. AVELINO

THE ARTICLE ("Why is rice so expensive?) raised great expectations. Unfortunately, the question was greatly left unanswered by the article.

Yes, it points out that our cost and price for rice are much higher than our neighbors. Yes, this has resulted in widespread smuggling. Yes, rice is so important in the cost-of-living index that an increase in price immediately hurts family income. And, yes, we still do not eat enough of rice and this is telling on our poor nutritional status.

But the main question, supposed to be addressed by the article, remains largely unanswered—"Why is rice so expensive?" While it may be facile to point to the failure of government programs in agriculture, we cannot simply add to the mass finger-pointing that is so fashionable in today's policy milieu. We need answers and not more questions as to who neglected what as far as the rice program is concerned.

Isn't it that the cost of production is high because we are not producing as much as our neighbors? For several years now, many of our consumers have been buying the popular "seven-tonner." We understand that the name comes from a rice hybrid developed by the International Rice Research Institute which yields seven tons per hectare. As far as we can recall, our national average comes nowhere near the seven tons promised. And why is this?

The mere adoption of a specific hybrid is not a cure-all to our low productivity. Its use requires complementary application of fertilizers and chemicals. And why don't our farmers use the required fertilizers and chemicals? Because these are too expensive. Let's have our Department of Agriculture researchers and agricultural attaches do some work. What does it cost the Thai, Malaysian, Chinese farmers to use fertilizers and chemicals such as pesticides, fungicides and weedicides? Let's ask them to compare this with what the Filipino farmers are being asked to pay for generically the same fertilizers and chemicals. There is a good chance that we will find a big part of our answer to the high cost of agricultural production in this particular comparison of input costs. The fact that the DA is extremely concerned about the influx of smuggled agricultural inputs from neighboring countries is prima facie evidence that a wide price disparity exists. And what has the government response been? The knee-jerk answer has been to apprehend all those trading in smuggled agricultural inputs. Unless the government addresses the real source of the problem, the much more expensive costs of our farmers vis-a-vis their Asian counterparts, it will not be able to solve the smuggling of agricultural inputs. In like manner, simple apprehension of rice smugglers will not solve the rice problem.

So here lies what could be a key element in making the Filipino farmer, and not just the rice farmer, globally competitive. What is to be done? The beauty here is that the answer may not even need an additional budgetary allocation for the government in general and the DA in particular. It may only call for a review of procedures employed by the DA, through the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority, in determining what fertilizers and chemicals are to be allowed entry into the Philippines. Based on what disparities arise from the comparison of the relative costs of fertilizers and chemicals, why can we not simply allow our farmers to buy the inputs from countries where these are cheapest? This is basically the same approach used in pharmaceuticals. If the locally entrenched suppliers cannot provide goods that are globally competitive, then, by all means, let our farmers buy these goods from where these are cheapest. Let the market discipline these input suppliers.

If the government wants the Filipino farmer to be globally competitive, then the government should give the Filipino farmer the means to be globally competitive. And we contend that the means—allowing him to source inputs where these are cheapest—is not only market-oriented but also implementable at little or no cost to the government.

To be sure, there are other causes for the high cost of rice in the country today. We have to contend with, among others, high land and sea transport costs, large post-harvest losses, inferior milling recovery and the preponderance of small rice mills that do not benefit from economies of scale. But let's focus on the root: how do we make the Filipino farmer productive so that he can be competitive? The answer has been bandied about by the government for a long time: level the playing field.

By the looks of it, the ball is in the DA's court.

1 message(s), 1 unread

Working Online

Talking points

A KIND reader has taken issue with the way I handled a particular contributor's article in one Talking Points column, specifically when I passed judgment on a line of argument (as it happens, that article's main line) and called it "wrong." Mr. Rene Banaag raises the valid point that contributors in the future may not be as forthcoming, or indeed the page itself won't be as fair, if judgments of this sort become the order of the day.

He has put his finger on the nub of the problem: every week, I invite experts to contribute articles that end up being critiqued. Is it possible to be fair and at the same time critical?

I hope so. In the context of this page, granting a given article a fair airing, a just presentation, is I think qualitatively different from pointing out, in a separate review, that the article itself is defective, or uses a fallacy or two.

In this issue, for instance, Mr. Domingo presents a compelling (if partly abridged) detailing of the rice farmer's perspective. It is obviously a view which Domingo knows intimately. The authority of experience is stamped on almost every paragraph. But since at bottom the argument deals with the imprecise, assumption-driven social science of economics, the conclusion cannot be received as indubitable.

There are a couple of fallacies of ambiguity, for example, that should make the reader retrace his steps. In this article, "consumer" is used as a sort of counterweight to the farmer, the producer, but isn't the producer also a consumer at some other level? And the dramatic barangay-town-province-nation line: Isn't this the fallacy of composition? That is, we are mis-applying what is true of a part (arguably, in this case, a rich barangay can create a rich town) to the whole (in actuality, we do have rich provinces, as well as economically depressed ones).

This is not to take away from the power of the farmer's perspective (the main point of Domingo's contribution).

Mr. Avelino's argument is eminently economic: he acknowledges that there are other variables but, all other things being equal (or at least on hold), zeroes in on the high cost of farm inputs. "Based on what disparities arise from the comparison of the relative costs of fertilizers and chemicals, why can we not simply allow our farmers to buy the inputs from countries where these are cheapest?"

Like Domingo, he puts his faith in the disciplinary powers of a deregulated market.—*J. Nery*

Taliban leader Omar has escaped, says Afghan intel

BACK to the good old days—A rider from Kabul team (left) tries to grab a headless goat corpse from a Parwan team rider during a game of buzkashi, the national sport of Afghanistan, in Kabul Jan. 4. Riders in this rough-and-tumble game have to grab the goat corpse, carry it the length of the stadium and toss it into a chalk circle at one end to score a point. REUTERS

KABUL—Taliban leader Mullah Mohammad Omar seems to have given US-led forces the slip once again, Afghan intelligence said Saturday after talks with formerly pro-Taliban forces failed to produce his surrender.

The apparent escape is another blow for US forces who thought they were close to capturing the hardline cleric, after they lost track of their other key target: Osama bin Laden.

"The team we had sent to Helmand province to hold talks with pro-Taliban commanders reported to us that Mullah Omar has escaped from Baghran and the whole province of Helmand," intelligence official Nasratullah Nasrat said.

The commander of the US campaign, Gen. Tommy Franks, had said earlier that US intelligence believed Omar and his remaining fighters were near Baghran and Deh Rahwood in mountainous south central Afghanistan.

Hopes the one-eyed cleric had been driven to ground were further raised Friday by Hamid Karzai, leader of Afghanistan's new interim government, who said he hoped talks would lead to Omar's surrender.

US forces—including ground troops, strike jets and surveillance planes—are combing Afghanistan for Omar, Bin Laden and fighters loyal to Saudi-born Bin Laden's al-Qaida network of Islamic radicals.

The three-month-old campaign overthrew Omar's regime and prepared the way for Karzai's UN-backed government, but as Taliban forces scattered to the hills Omar and Bin Laden have proved elusive.

UN envoy to Afghanistan Lakhdar Brahimi said Friday he was "very concerned" about "credible" reports of up to 52 civilians killed in the latest of a series of apparent US bombing blunders.

US bombers and F/A-18 fighter jets on Thursday and Friday bombarded the sprawling Zawar Kili al-Qaida compound near the Pakistani border southwest of Khost—reportedly killing around 30 more civilians.

The compound of around six buildings, training areas and a network of caves was a prime target of the raids, Pentagon spokesperson Victoria Clarke said.

The compound was first hit by US missiles in 1998 in a failed bid to kill Bin Laden following the US Embassy bombings in east Africa.

While Omar and Bin Laden, who is said to have ordered the Sept. 11 attacks on US cities, remain at large, other suspected al-Qaida and Taliban members have been arrested.

Many were detained after crossing into Pakistan, including Abdul Salam Zaeef, the Taliban's former ambassador to Islamabad. *AFP*

US Green Beret dies in ambush

WASHINGTON—An Army Special Forces soldier was killed and a CIA officer wounded when ambushed in eastern Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Nathan Ross Chapman, 31, was the first American soldier to die from hostile fire in Afghanistan during the anti-terrorism campaign that began Oct. 7. The unidentified CIA officer was seriously wounded, US officials said.

The dangerous hunt for Osama bin Laden and his allies advanced Friday as Pakistan turned over a top al-Qaida leader to the United States and prepared to hand over a key Taliban official.

Officials said Chapman, who was a communications specialist, and the CIA officer had met with local tribal leaders in Afghanistan's Paktia province, near where US warplanes struck several al-Qaida and Taliban targets in the past few weeks. The Americans were ambushed after the meeting, and exchanged fire with their assailants, officials said.

Gen. Tommy Franks, head of the US Central Command, said the attack illustrated the dangers faced by dozens of American special operations forces who are working with local Afghan fighters to coordinate the hunt for Bin Laden, his al-Qaida lieutenants and senior Taliban members.

"We still have a responsibility as part of this mission to root out pockets of resisting Taliban forces, as well as to continue to work to root out groups of al-Qaida where we may find them inside Afghanistan—dangerous work, indeed," Franks told a news conference at Central Command headquarters in Tampa, Fla. *AP*

Relying on Afghans to catch Bin Laden hasn't worked so far

WASHINGTON—One reason the United States hasn't caught Osama bin Laden is the decision to depend on Afghans to do most of the hunting rather than commit thousands of US troops on the ground, many military experts believe.

The US commander of the war, acknowledging that Afghan allies sometimes have different priorities than finding Bin Laden, insisted Friday that relying on them still is the only way to operate in the big, unfamiliar and daunting country.

Some Afghans probably are accepting bribes to free al-Qaida or Taliban fighters whom the US wishes to interrogate, said Gen. Tommy Franks, the head of US Central Command. Some may even feed bad intelligence to the United States to bring on attacks against their own enemies.

But Franks said he doesn't want more US troops in Afghanistan—about 4,000 are there now—because the country remains very dangerous. A US Army Special Forces soldier was killed by enemy fire Friday.

"The very best approach in a country is if one finds willing allies who know the ground, know the people," Franks said.

He added: "We don't know where Bin Laden is." And he said, "If we absolutely knew where (Taliban leader Mullah Mohammed) Omar was, then we probably would be taking pretty direct action."

The drawbacks of using Afghans as America's eyes, ears and muscle have been apparent for some time, military experts say. After kicking out the Taliban, many Afghan tribal leaders have worked first to consolidate their own power, viewing the American goals as secondary.

"Generally speaking, people are against the Taliban," said Ali Jalali, a former Afghan fighter who has advised the US Army. "But among the local strongmen and warlords, there are some different priorities, some conflicts of interest."

Around Tora Bora, US officials acknowledge they have tried to use the incentives of money, weapons and cold-weather gear to get Afghans to search cave to cave for bin Laden.

At a key moment last month when US bombing and the Afghan tribal offensive had pushed al-Qaida from their cave hideouts around Tora Bora, senior defense officials said Franks was considering sending several hundred Marines to aid the search.

At the time, US officials were concerned that Afghan tribal leaders considered their part of the war over and were unwilling to quickly switch to searching for Bin Laden. *AP*

Terror training camp asks tough questions

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan—If a plane is traveling at a height of 900 meters (3,000 feet) and a speed of 500 meters a second (1,100 mph), which part of the aircraft should you target with your weapon?

Three terrorists-in-training all chose the correct of the four options.

At an al-Qaida school for terrorists outside the southern city of Kandahar, it was obvious that class involved more than firing Kalashnikov rifles. Students learned how to make bombs, use anti-aircraft weapons and pick the best spots on a body for a kill shot.

And, as shown by examination papers recovered Thursday from a cave complex at an al-Qaida training camp outside the southern Kandahar, the stronghold of the former Taliban, they were tested and graded.

The Arabic-language tests of three students—Abu Hasssan Qatari, Musaub al Freeb and Osama—focused on the use of the old Russian-made Dashka anti-aircraft weapon.

With a maximum score of 30, Al Freeb scored a 24.5, Osama 22 and Qatari 19.5. Qatari was poor on dates and left some answers blank. Al Freeb gave detailed responses.

Some of the questions were handwritten in red. Some were fill-in-the-blanks. Others required dates. A few were specific to a weapon's weight and range.

Each correct answer was marked with a red check mark, each wrong answer with an 'x.'

The questions were basic. Students had to know the inner workings of the weapon, how to take it apart and put it back together. They had to know the ammunition it used, how many rounds it could fire per minute and per second.

They also had to know the best way to shoot down an aircraft, at what height, the angle at which the weapon should be fired and how many people would be required to carry it (in this case, three). *AP*

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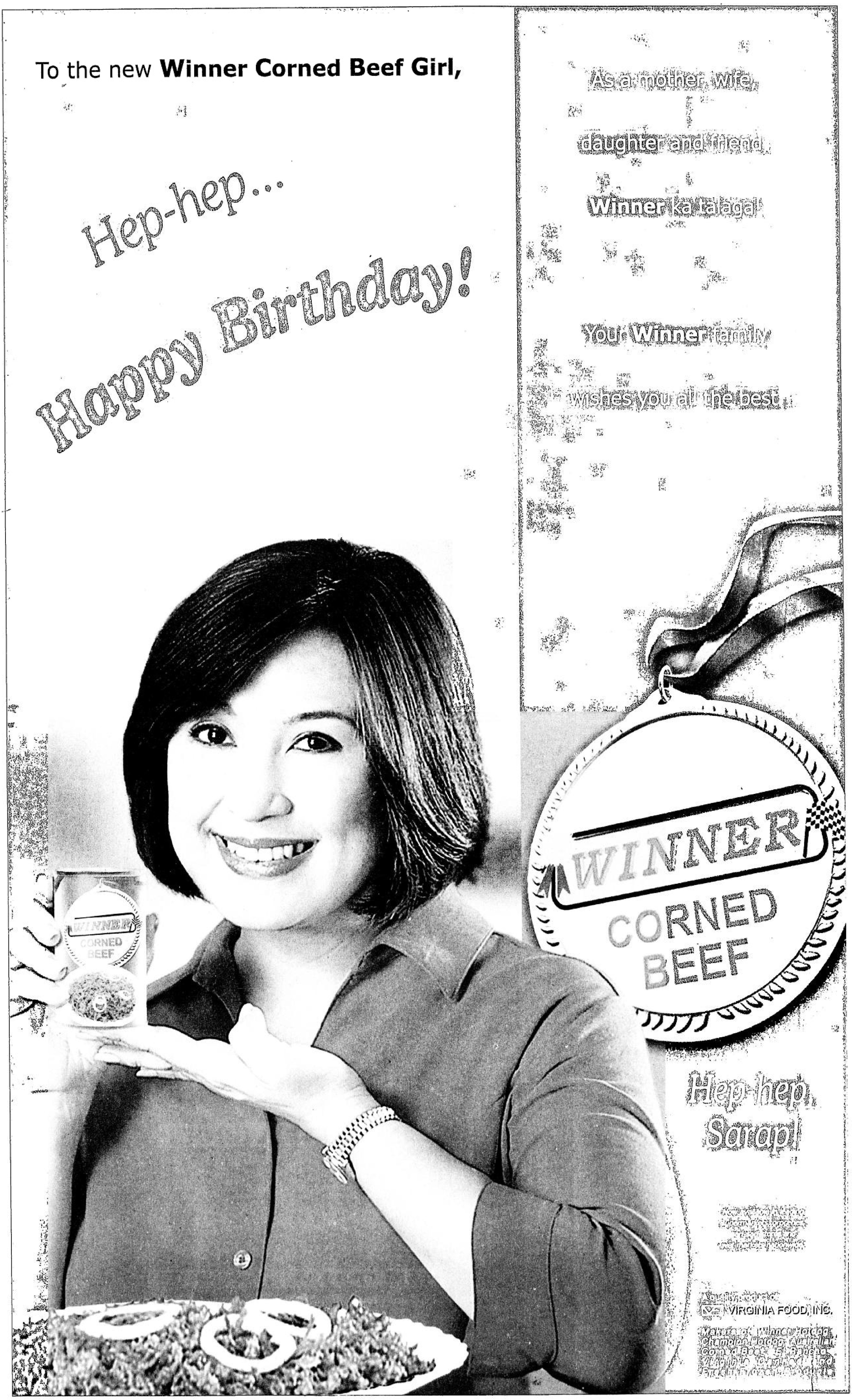

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ANSWER A

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Pakistan offers India 'hand of friendship'

KATMANDU—Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf made a dramatic gesture Saturday toward arch-foe India by extending his hand to Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, but the Indian leader promptly told him his handshake must be followed by deeds.

Finishing a speech in which he called for "serious and sustained" dialogue with India, the Pakistani leader said he wished to "extend a hand of genuine, sincere friendship to Prime Minister Vajpayee" and walked over to Vajpayee's seat to shake his hand.

"Let us together commence a journey of peace, harmony and progress in South Asia," he said, to the applause of the crowd.

Vajpayee, who has ruled out one-on-one talks with Musharraf at the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) summit that opened Saturday in Katmandu, smiled and held Musharraf's hand as he rose in his chair.

When the Indian leader took the podium later, he said he was "glad he extended his hand of friendship to me."

"Now President Musharraf must follow this gesture by not permitting any activity in Pakistan or any territory in its control today that allows terrorists to perpetrate mindless violence in India," he said.

Vajpayee cited his experience after peace summits in Lahore in 1999 and in Agra in July 2000.

"I say this because of our past experience. I went to Lahore with a hand of friendship. We were rewarded by aggression in Kargil and the hijacking of an Indian Airlines aircraft from Katmandu.

"I invited President Musharraf to Agra. We were rewarded with a terrorist attack on the Jammu and Kashmir assembly and last month on the parliament of India," he said.

Thirty-eight people died in the Oct. 1 attack in Kashmir's summer capital Srinagar and 14 in the Dec. 13 assault in New Delhi, in incidents India has blamed on Muslim militant outfits based in Pakistan.

The latter attack has pushed India and Pakistan into an intense standoff, with New Delhi withdrawing its ambassador from Islamabad for the first time since their last full-blown war 30 years ago.

The two sides have also been deploying military units to their common border. Indian officials said villages came under intense mortar fire Sunday by Pakistani Army units in Kashmir, the Himalayan territory that is a focal point of the nuclear powers' half-century conflict.

"Nothing can be achieved as long as there is tension and hostilities among any two of the members," Musharraf told the summit. *AFP*

A PALESTINIAN boy runs after Israeli soldiers who threw teargas grenades during a protest in the West Bank City of Ramallah, Jan. 4. Washington's Middle East envoy returned to the region to renew peace efforts on Thursday as Israel eased its military grip on parts of the West Bank but launched fresh raids in other Palestinian-ruled areas.

REUTERS

Israel seizes 'Palestinian' arms ship

TEL AVIV—Israel said on Friday it had seized a Palestinian ship in the Red Sea smuggling 50 tons of mainly Iranian-supplied weapons, an announcement that cast a cloud over a US envoy's renewed peace mission to the region.

The Palestinians said it was a false assertion intended to sabotage a new US peacekeeping mission.

Nabil Abu Rdainah, a senior adviser to Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, denied knowledge of the ship, which Israeli Army chief Shaul Mofaz said was captured on Thursday.

Mofaz said the vessel, the Karine-A, was owned by the Palestinian Authority and its captain and some crew were officers in the Palestinian naval police force.

"The link between the ship's crew and the Palestinian Authority and its leaders is clear and undeniable," Mofaz told a news conference in Tel Aviv.

Abu Rdainah said the Palestinian Authority "knows nothing about this ship which the Israelis are talking about and we are going to investigate . . . though we consider it Israeli propaganda in order to sabotage the mission of General Zinni."

Mofaz spoke as US envoy Anthony Zinni met Arafat in the West Bank city of Ramallah in an effort to end 15 months of Israeli-Palestinian bloodshed.

Zinni, who cut short his first visit last month after a wave of Palestinian suicide attacks, said afterwards that US-brokered Israeli-Palestinian security meetings would resume. He did not give a timetable.

"I am optimistic, hopeful and feel that we have the conditions that are right to make progress this time. And I am looking to return often and very shortly after this mission to keep the process moving," Zinni said.

Arafat said he hoped for US-led truce-to-peacemaking immediately, adding, "Our aim is to achieve lasting peace." *Reuters*

Duhalde seeking emergency powers

BUENOS AIRES—President Eduardo Duhalde asked the Argentine Congress Friday for emergency powers, announced a devaluation and warned any further deterioration of the economy could lead to a bloodbath.

But he immediately suffered a setback as the Chamber of Deputies suspended for a day a session he hoped would conclude with passage of the bill.

Opposition lawmakers expressed reservations, and members of Duhalde's Peronist party sought clarifications over the proposed legislation that would allow the new government to immediately scrap the peso's parity with the dollar.

"Devaluation already is a foregone conclusion," the populist new president told business leaders, warning failure to improve the economy would have disastrous consequences.

"One step down would mean a bloodbath," he said in remarks coinciding with Congress' receipt of draft legislation to give him emergency powers to restructure financial, economic and currency exchange policies.

Duhalde, 60, sought the special powers for the entire two-year term to which he was elected by Congress Tuesday.

The draft legislation did not spell out the fate of the Argentine peso, but would grant the government the power to decide what system would determine the peso's value against other currencies.

But officials said the government planned to float the peso while allowing a preferential dollar rate of about 1.35 pesos for imports of essential goods.

DUHALDE

Oil exports would then be taxed, with the revenue going to help individuals and small companies restructure debt denominated in foreign currency.

The proposed law also called for steps to protect bank savings—including those made in foreign currencies—and to eliminate current legislation tying public utility rates to the dollar and US inflation. It would also authorize renegotiation of contracts with providers, taking "the interests of consumers" into account.

The special powers would also allow the government to regulate prices of essential goods and services to protect consumers from "market distortions or actions of a monopolistic nature."

Duhalde told business leaders that maintaining social peace and avoiding "anarchy" was a crucial priority for his government. *AFP*

Russia to cut forces

MOSCOW—Russia aims to reduce its armed forces to one million troops this year as part of far-reaching military reform plans, a senior defense official was quoted as saying on Friday.

Col. Gen. Nikolai Kormiltsev, supreme commander of Russian ground forces and a deputy defense minister, set the target figure of one million by the end of 2002 in comments to Interfax news agency.

He gave no precise figure for the present level of Russian armed forces but western and Russian military observers say they total around 1.2 million.

Russian President Vladimir Putin has set large-scale cuts to the overblown military as one of his main goals in office, arguing they are long overdue and essential for national security and because of limited finances.

The Kremlin, in November 2000, announced planned cuts totaling 600,000 people over five years in an effort to create leaner but more mobile, better equipped and more cost-effective forces. Kremlin officials say the cuts will not affect combat readiness.

Kormiltsev was quoted as saying that the exodus of good officers from the Army had now eased off. *Reuters*

FULL LIFE REUTERS

The world's oldest man, 112-year-old Antonio Todde, died overnight on the Italian island of Sardinia, relatives said Jan. 4. Todde, a shepherd on the rocky hills around the town of Nuoro until he became housebound in the last four years of his life, had been due to celebrate his 113th birthday on Jan. 22. He was born in a tiny mountain village the same year as the Eiffel Tower was erected in 1889.

Dutch pensioners give real euros to fake cops

AMSTERDAM—Dutch con artists posing as police have tricked some pensioners into handing over new euro notes they claimed were counterfeit, Dutch police said on Friday.

At least two elderly Dutch people have fallen for the ploy. An 88-year-old man in the eastern city of Arnhem gave 2,000 euros ($1,790) to two men who said they were police agents.

Another 78-year-old woman from nearby Rozendaal handed over an unspecified amount.

"It's a scam. There are always people trying to trick the elderly," Arnhem police spokesperson Remke Weller said.

The ruse came to light just hours after police said they had arrested a 43-year-old woman in the central Dutch city of Gouda who tried to buy a train ticket using a fake 50-euro ($45) note.

The con artists met the pensioners after they had taken the new euro notes from cash machines, walked them home, and convinced them they had received counterfeit bills.

The two who had given the notes to the suspects later realized something was wrong and notified police, Weller said.

Police had stepped up their presence around the cash machines in an attempt to catch the men, Weller said.

So far, the only fraudulent euros discovered since the notes were issued on Jan. 1 have proven to be crude reproductions.

The fake 50-euro bill passed to a cashier in the Netherlands on Friday was produced from a real note scanned into a computer.

"The bill was scanned by computer and had no security features . . . it was very clumsy and amateuristic work, not a professional forgery," said Cees den Bakker, spokesperson at the National Police Institute.

Germany announced the euro zone's first cases of counterfeit notes on Thursday, including a note made from two magazine photos stuck back-to-back.

European officials have urged people in the 12 euro-zone countries to watch out for forgeries because the money is unfamiliar to 300 million citizens in the zone. *Reuters*

REUTERS

THE WORLD'S first clone of an adult animal, Dolly the sheep, bleats at photographers during a photocall at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh Jan. 4.

Cloned sheep Dolly develops arthritis

LONDON—The world's first cloned sheep has developed arthritis at the relatively early age of 5 1/2 years, scientists said, stirring debate that the current cloning procedures might be flawed.

The announcement of Dolly's problem could raise new doubts about cloning animals for use in human transplantation and about cloning humans themselves.

"Dolly has arthritis in her left hind leg at the hip and the knee," said the scientist, Ian Wilmut, of the Edinburgh-based Roslin Institute. "We will never know in the case of Dolly whether her condition is because she was cloned or whether this was an unfortunate accident."

He said normal sheep of Dolly's age have been known to develop arthritis, but most don't until they are older.

"But this provides one more piece of evidence that unfortunately the present cloning procedures are rather inefficient."

Dolly was born in a Scottish research compound in 1996, the world's first sheep to be successfully cloned from an adult cell. Roslin scientists announced her birth on Feb. 23, 1997, creating front-page news headlines around the world.

Wilmut said that apart from the arthritis, Dolly remained a healthy animal who has given birth to six lambs.

He also said Dolly was responding well to a treatment with anti-inflammatory drugs and that her condition will be closely monitored.

There are now hundreds of animal clones, including cows, pigs, mice and goats, many of them appearing robust and healthy.

But since Dolly is the oldest one, no one knows what could happen to the rest of them in the future.

Sheep can live to between 15 and 17 years. Arthritis typically does not develop until age 10 to 11.

In some ways, Dolly remains a rarity.

Many attempts to clone animals have ended in failure. Deformed fetuses have died in the womb with oversized organs, while others were born dead. Still others died days after being born, some twice as large as they should have been.

In 1999, scientists noticed that the cells in Dolly's body—cloned from a 6-year-old sheep—had started to show signs of wear more typical of an older animal. Some geneticists said the finding provided evidence that researchers could not manufacture copies of animals without the original genetic blueprint eventually wearing out. *AP*

Australians brace for new fires

SYDNEY—As firefighters prayed for rain, only to see hot sun and choking smoke in the sky, massive fires swept bushland north of Sydney and edged closer to a tiny beach village to its south on Saturday.

Australia's 100 or so "black Christmas" fires have been raging for 13 days.

Almost half have been deliberately started, many by bored teens and children. Police have arrested 23 suspects, including a 9-year-old boy.

Meteorologists said southern-hemisphere summer temperatures had dropped to around 26 deg. Celsius after climbing above 38 deg. earlier this week. Humidity also rose after a string of dry days.

However, they predicted temperatures would soar again soon, bringing dry Outback winds. These conditions have given life to blazes which have destroyed 170 houses and scorched more than 300,000 hectares since Dec. 24.

Sydney was shrouded in smoke haze and a white ash fell over its suburbs and downtown. There have been no reports of deaths or serious injuries.

Thousands of people have been evacuated from their homes. Most return soon after the immediate danger passes.

Fire crews took advantage of Saturday's kinder weather to prepare for next week's feared onslaught.

"They have been working through the night and working through the day to strengthen containment lines around the fires. It is hard, arduous work," said Cameron Wade of the New South Wales Rural Fire Service.

However, some fires were just too big to tackle head-on and burned out of control north, west and south of Australia's largest city.

The biggest was raging through a national park near the tiny town of Colo Heights, 60 km northwest of Sydney.

Wade said it had jumped a highway and was heading into rugged bushland, inaccessible to fire crews.

"It is just monstrous in size. I don't have the figures. But looking at it on the map it takes up a huge amount of space," he said.

Residents there were being ordered to leave their homes as a precaution amid fears that the fire might join up with several others burning nearby.

Another large fire was in the Blue Mountains, 80 km west of Sydney, threatening houses and roaring up steep hillsides and gullies. *AP*

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Toxic waste victims live on charity

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY—On the second day of the New Year, Amy Bernal and her three-year-old son Jaster rushed to finish 100 or so thank you cards in their cramped home in Barangay Kalalake here.

Amy, a security guard at the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, did not only express her gratitude to the many donors who last year gave P70,000 for her son's chemotherapy for leukemia.

On the card reproduced from the drawings of the late child toxic warrior Crizel Jane Valencia, Amy also scribbled: "The child cannot wait—his name is today."

She said she wrote Gabriele Mistral's famous line to sound off another urgent call for help.

In the next 24 months, the boy needs P5,300 monthly or a total of P127,000 worth of medicines for what doctors call the maintenance phase of leukemia-afflicted patients. Jaster responded well to the four cycles of chemotherapy done on the P70,000 donation that Amy and the People's Task Force for Bases Clean-Up had raised from donors, mostly strangers.

"My child survived the critical phase, thanks to generous people. I hope more donors would help my boy prolong his life," Amy told the Inquirer in Filipino.

When pregnant with Jaster, Amy worked near one of the identified contaminated sites at Subic.

Kalalake is just across the bay where untreated wastes from American naval operations were dumped, it was learned.

In the city, Jaster is the third boy monitored by the task force to be sick with leukemia. An Amerasian boy and an 18-year-old boy died of the same disease two years ago.

At least 386 leukemia cases were noted in the Olongapo-Zambales area since 1996, reports obtained by the PTFBC from the University of Santo Tomas Hospital showed.

Amy dreaded having more such cases in the city, saying that poor parents like her are left with only two choices: it's either seeing the child meet a slow, painful death or begging for help, like she does.

Just as she was writing the donors to forego gifts and instead buy medicines for her son, the boy stopped sealing the envelopes and blurted: "Why did Crizel use an umbrella in that drawing?"

It was the nth time he had asked the same question, Amy said. To which he got the same reply from his mother: "Because Crizel said she wanted a shield to protect her from harm like toxic wastes."

Charity, which had come from people from all walks of life here and abroad, had been the shield that had helped many young sick children like Jaster cope with life-threatening diseases linked with exposure to contaminants, said Myrla Baldonado, PTFBC executive director.

In the last seven years, she said the task force has facilitated the treatment of over a hundred children through the help of various individuals, legislators and government agencies such as the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

Pagcor's assistance ended late last year, though.

More help is needed this year. The Dominican Family Justice and Peace Commission opened 2002 with a P5,000 donation for six-year-old Michael Pili. The boy has a growing nasal mass and needs P18,000 for surgery and medicines.

Pili, abandoned by his parents, was born at the Clark Air Base Command evacuation center, a former US Air Force motor pool that was declared positive for mercury and nitrate.

Also in Olongapo, Maricar Luzong needs P95,000 for a surgery to correct a congenital heart disease.

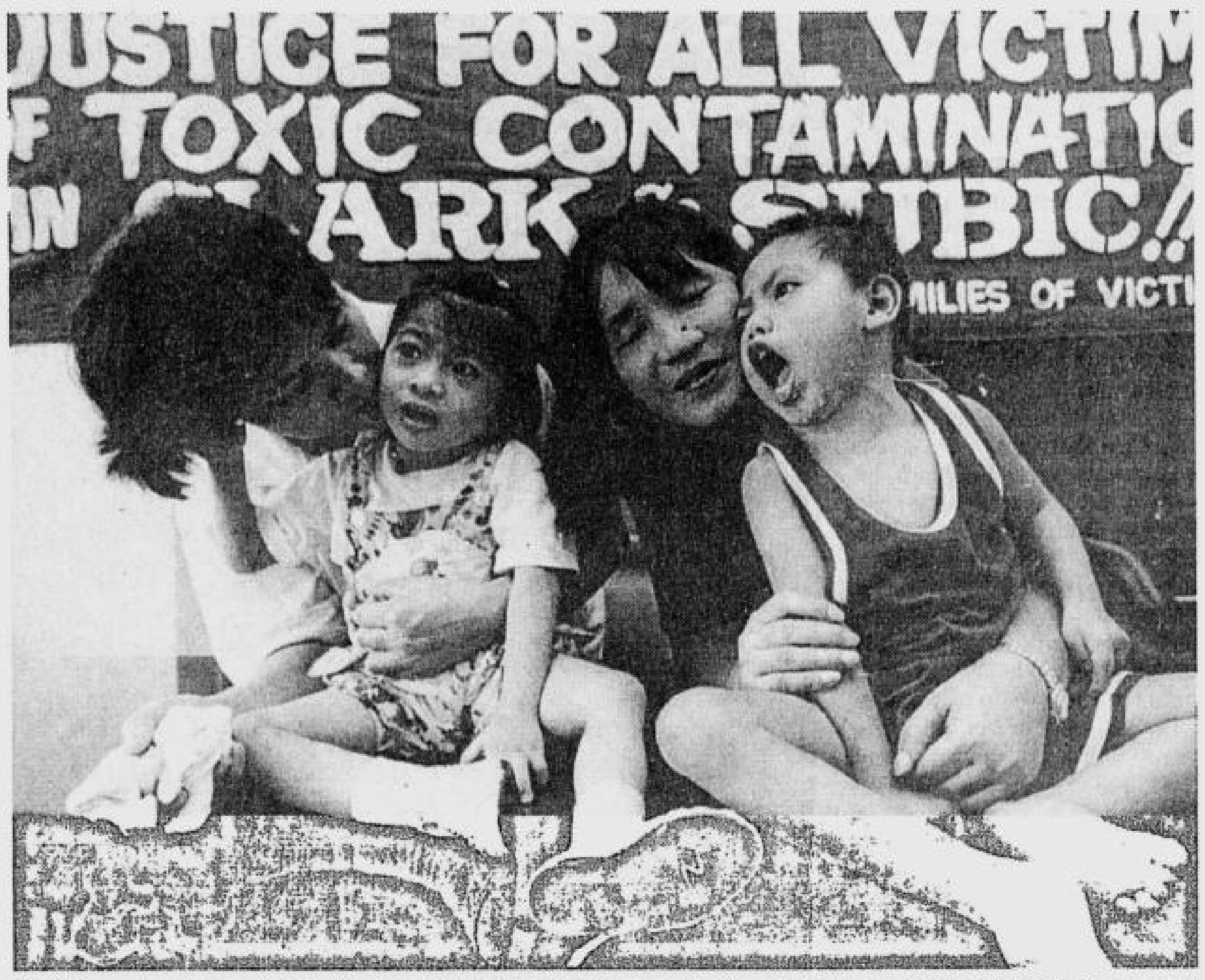
Early donors have helped her get heart treatment at the Philippine General Hospital. The parents of the 13-year-old used to work as scavengers in the US Navy dump.

While these children need emergency attention, at least 108 others around Clark in Pampanga and Subic in Olongapo City in Zambales also need medical help, Baldonado said.

Death, however, was inevitable for Ciriaco Manzano, a 48-year-old half-Aeta in this city. After three rounds of chemotherapy, Man-zano suffered a relapse. He died on Dec. 31.

"Death is a constant reality in the task force but we don't lose hope especially for the children. We have been praying to see an outpouring . . . that will transcend . . . the borders of . . . families and kin," Baldonado told the Inquirer.

Jaster, Maricar and Michael, in separate interviews, spoke of two common wishes. Although differently stated, they wish to be healthy and to live like other normal children do.



TOXIC waste victims Micah Mesiano (at left held by her mother) and Abraham Taruc (at right) in a recent press conference called to dramatize the plight of toxic waste victims. FILE PHOTO

Danish gov't grants ₱750M for Camarines water project

NAGA CITY—The Danish government has granted a mixed credit facility worth P750 million for the construction of a water utility project covering the 10 towns of the third district of Camarines Sur.

The national government has guaranteed the facility through the Department of Finance.

The financial assistance was granted to the Partido Development Authority (PDA), the administrative body that exercises jurisdiction over the towns of Sangay, Nato, Tigaon, Goa, San Jose, Lagonoy, Presentacion, Caramoan, Tinambac and Siruma.

Renato San Jose, PDA administrator, said the Danish government also provided consultants for the project.

San Jose said the mixed credit facility, granted through the Danish International Development Agency, is interest-free and to be paid within 10 years upon operation.

He said the Danish government provided a very reasonable term of payment for the PDA and even insured a built-in guarantee from the Export Credit Fund.

This year, the construction of treatment facilities and pipelines in 24 sites will be undertaken in the two big towns of Lagonoy and San Jose.

The project is hoped to be operational in October and completed next year.

He said most of the materials and technology will be provided by the Danish government as stipulated in the project agreement.

The Danish government will also directly handle the consultants' salaries.

The PDA will provide the counterpart in the form of manpower and salaries of project personnel.

"With 50 percent of the materials to be bought here, the Philippine economy will also benefit by at least P350 million from the project," San Jose said.

He said about 16,000 households from the 10 towns of the Camarines Sur's third district will initially benefit from the water utility project.

San Jose said each household is estimated to consume at least 20 cubic meters of water in a month. The PDA will charge P9.50 per cubic meter.

He said the PDA, aside from project management and supervision, will collect the funds to be generated from the project until the loan from the Danish government shall have been paid. *Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Settlers turn remote village into 'Promised Land'

By Maurice Malanes
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

NAGTIPUNAN, Quirino—The dirt road to Asaclat village keeps on going uphill. So you wonder why the villagers have to punish and isolate themselves in a place where you have to catch your breath when you climb your way to the remote village.

You can only appreciate why the villagers opted to be on top of the world in Asaclat once you reach the place.

The village, occupied mostly by migrant settlers from Ifugao, is actually a plateau where you get to view the valleys of Quirino, the southernmost province of Cagayan Valley.

Asked what brought the Ifugao settlers to the place, village elder Marcelo Numbiyan said, "*Ay ket diay boksit mi, ah* (Of course, our stomachs)."

For Numbiyan and the almost 2,000 other settlers, mostly from Banaue, Ifugao, Asaclat is a land of promise, where they can't go hungry as long as they toil.

The plateau village indeed promises plentiful living for the settlers, whose ancestors built the famed Banaue Rice Terraces.

The settlers have built some rice terraces in Asaclat, which, they say, yield more than their rice farms back home.

"Back home in Banaue, you're fortunate if you have a rice field," said Numbiyan. "Even if you do, rice yield there is not as abundant as before. We had no choice but look for more fertile and more spacious lands."

The *kaingin* or slash-and-burn farms the settlers set up over logged-over, once-virgin forests also yield more sacks of *camote* (sweet potato) and more bunches of bigger bananas than their upland farms in Ifugao.

The scent of gold also brought Camilo Bahingawan, a native of Hungduan, Ifugao, to Quirino in 1970. At that time gold panners were extracting gold from sediments along the Adalem River in the Quirino-Nueva Vizcaya border.

The gold, Bahingawan found out, didn't last for long. But he found another gold mine—the fertile soil of the logged over former forest frontiers of Tucod village in Cabarroguis town.

Now over 50, Bahingawan has since been earning income and supplying food to his family's table from cultivating corn, rice, banana, string beans, yam, and other cash crops.

> 'Our stomachs brought us here…'

Through word of mouth, the news of the Promised Land that was Quirino soon spread to other Cordillera folk. Almost every mountain village of Quirino has migrant settlers from various parts of the Cordillera, most of them from Ifugao and Benguet, all seeking the proverbial greener pasture.

But there were those who were pushed to Quirino after government projects eased them out of their ancestral lands and the government had not properly relocated them.

Some Ibaloi folk, who were displaced from their home villages after the Ambuklao Dam was built along the Agno River in Benguet in the 1950s, for example, ended up in Quirino.

These displaced folk first tried to seek their fortune in Conwap Valley in Nueva Vizcaya, which was one of the relocation sites offered by the government.

But the valley, the Ibaloi folk discovered, was actually inhabited by Bugkalots, the original inhabitants of the place.

The Ibaloi folk transferred from one place to another, and many of them landed in Quirino. One village community the Ambuklao folk created was Don Mariano Perez, a former virgin forest zone in Diffun town until a logging firm operated in the area from the 1960s to 1992.

Despite Quirino's more fertile uplands, life for the migrant settlers has not been easy.

In recent years, migrant settlers in Don Mariano Perez and its neighboring villages lost thousands of pesos in income after their banana plantation was infested with what agriculturists call "bunchy-top virus."

Bananas simply wilted and died. Infested bananas that managed to survive got stunted and failed to bear fruit.

But it was not the end of the world for the migrants, who have yet to fully appreciate the science and art of diversifying their crops to protect them from pests and viruses.

It was good the migrant settlers had proved to be teachable. They, for example, took advantage of help from the Community Forestry Project-Quirino (CFPQ) and other private and government outfits extended.

A joint Philippine-German project, the CFPQ introduced, among other things, agro-forestry and "integrated farm development."

Agro-forestry is a farming system under which cash crops such as fruits and coffee are interspersed with trees such as narra and mahogany.

In integrated farm development, a farmer plans and designs his upland farm such that part of his farmland has a forest buffer zone and that a particular corner or space of the farmland is planted to a particular suitable crop.

Roberto Sarak, a Kankanaey-Ibaloi from Benguet, for instance, showed his six-hectare landholding, which had a hectare forest, a two-hectare fallow, a two-hectare orchard cum vegetable farm and fishponds, and a hectare of rice field.

One of 627 migrant settlers in Don Mariano Perez, Sarak, 59, trained on integrated farming systems and small-farm reservoirs at the Central Luzon State University in Nueva Ecija in 1993.

Sarak, who reached only Grade IV, said he has since been applying what he learned after he realized that he could not keep on clearing forests just to keep on planting upland rice and *camote* or sweet potato.

From his integrated farm, Sarak is supporting a daughter taking up computer science in Baguio City, two high school children, and two grade-schoolers.

Quirino is practically a haven for migrant settlers, all seeking to find a place in the sun in the province's valleys and uplands.

Most Ilocano and other lowlander-migrants have comfortably settled in the valleys where there are wide irrigated rice and cornfields.

In fact, some of the province's officials also come from migrant families who made it big from businesses such as corporate logging and the trade of farm products and inputs.

Migrant settlers from the Cordillera, who comprise roughly 10 percent of the 125,000 population, live in the province's uplands. These upland migrant settlers followed the trail of corporate loggers who had cut through Quirino's virgin forests.

Still tribal as they are, those from Benguet have settled in certain areas, where they opted to be neighbors with their own kind. So do those from Ifugao.

Aside from Don Mariano Perez, migrants from Benguet have also set up a barangay called Baguio Village, also in Diffun.

A neighboring community is also Ifugao Village, where mostly settlers from Ifugao live.

Having been used to the tough terrain and inconveniences such as poor roads or no roads at all in their places of origin, the migrant settlers from Benguet and Ifugao have proved to be resilient and are coping well with similar difficulties in their newfound home villages in Quirino.

But for the migrant settlers, Quirino, with its fertile land, offers hope and promise.

"Our stomachs brought us here. Through hard work and creativity we won't only survive by working the land," said Numbiyan.

"From our sweat, we also hope to send our children to school and open up for them doors of opportunities so that they don't have to suffer the difficulties we went through."

REWARD PHOTO COURTESY OF AFP

President Macapagal-Arroyo awards the Presidential Legion of Honor (degree of officer) to Brig. Gen. Delfin Lorenzana during the 66th anniversary on Dec. 21 of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. Lorenzana led troopers in repelling an assault on Malacañang by protesters loyal to ousted President Joseph Estrada.

2 die as boat sinks

TWO elderly women were killed after a motorized passenger boat capsized off Gumaca, Quezon, late Wednesday afternoon due to stormy weather.

The Philippine Coast Guard identified the victims as Luisa, 82, and Cristina Olivera, 75, while the 45 other passengers of MV Den Carlo, owned by a certain businessman Pablo Dapula, were rescued.

MV Den Carlo sunk 500 meters away from the Gumaca wharf.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Southern Visayas and Mindanao will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms becoming widespread rains over Southern Mindanao. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers. SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 17°
Baguio	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 21° Lo 8°
Tuguegarao	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 16°
Laoag	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 16°
Clark Zone	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 29° Lo 17°
Tagaytay	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 16°
Legazpi	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 27° Lo 23°
Calapan	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 26° Lo 18°
Bacolod	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 22°
Roxas	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 24°
Cebu	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°
Tacloban	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 28° Lo 23°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 27° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly cloudy to cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 22°
Davao	Cloudy with rainshowers	Hi 30° Lo 23°

Compiled by: Armin P. Adina, PDI Research/1/05/02

INQUIRER Mindanao
JUN BANDAYREL, Editor ■ NICO A. ALCONABA, Bureau Chief

Turning another page for Basilan

By Maria Cecil B. Laguardia
Basilan

FIFTY-SOMETHING Manang Ludi, along with a former neighbor Marcial Torres in Kabunbata, Barangay Menzi, Isabela City, could not imagine having any other home.

"We cannot leave this place, it's our home for several decades now. My children and I grew up and grew old here," Ludivina Jaquilmac quipped to a relative who asked why they are still in Basilan after hearing the alarming news on television.

"Most of the news were often so magnified that we just laugh them off," she added. They say Isabela has its peaceful moments, too. But apparently, and to their dismay, only the bad ones were reported.

But they admit they also get disturbed when the number of military trucks suddenly doubled. Several months ago, they learned that a group of Abu Sayyaf bandits tried to enter Kabunbata but was thwarted by government soldiers assigned to the area.

Basilan is among the provinces in Mindanao that is dogged by a bad image problem. Every time the province lands on newspaper pages, one can be sure that it is about war, armed clashes, hostages and Abu Sayyaf.

"Of course there were raids and (fightings), and military trucks loaded with battle-ready soldiers often prowl the city, but the situation here is not that desperate to scare us away. It's not as frightening as one may imagine," Manang Ludi says.

True enough, a visit to Isabela City of Basilan was an eye-opener. Just like any other city in the country, life goes on for the people, the risk notwithstanding.

MV Malamawi, the boat named after an island located at the entrance to Basilan, took barely an hour to get us there. The fresh air was so cool it makes you anticipate an exciting travel ahead.

Picture perfect

The hectares and hectares of mangroves were a lovely scene, picture-perfect as they glowed in the rays of the morning sun, the reflection broken from time to time by passing fishermen's boats. The gazing traveler will momentarily forget that he is on the threshold of one of the "most feared places in the country."

Several minutes later, the spectacle was replaced by an almost endless row of colorful Badjao houses by the sea, baffling to a city dweller how they can live in such a state. This scenery has become Mindanao's trademark, gracing the pages of many international and local magazines.

The 45-minute boat ride was uneventful, not that one can expect bombs on the seats and a siege before it docks, the way they do in the movies. Several military men were quietly blowing smoke, oblivious of their seatmates warily watching them.

Right in front of the port office, a large reminder greets the disembarking passengers balancing between the precarious wooden plank passage, biscuit tin boxes and huge pack bags—"You were able to work today because you observed safety yesterday." That certainly was not for the dock porters only. One pessimistic head may even wonder if it was a sort of warning.

The tricycle ride out of the pier was just like any other tricycle ride in the country. Along the way, Isabela's rustic beauty was evident, belying the reports of tension and armed clashes breathlessly reported by the media.

Mila Frayco, who spent her childhood and teen years in the city, pointed at the house of TV host John Estrada just beside the highway recalling how he once brought over estranged wife Janice de Belen to the delight of the residents. They were flabbergasted to hear that John claimed he was from Zamboanga.

Janjalani

Slain Abu Sayyaf leader Abdurajak Janjalani was Mila's schoolmate and her escort during a school contest.

"He was very quiet and unassuming, preferring to be on low profile most of the time. But he was also friendly and a gentleman," Mila said. She can hardly reconcile, even imagine, that humble face with the one splashed frequently on TV and newspapers as the founder of the Abu Sayyaf.

Isabela, backward as it may seem to others, is already in the limelight as the hometown of these newsmakers.

Living on a house near the highway, Mila recalls suffering a shock seeing a jeepload of dead bodies after a clan war or a battle between the government soldiers and dissidents.

"But that was not a reason to stop daily activities. After a time, you get used to it."

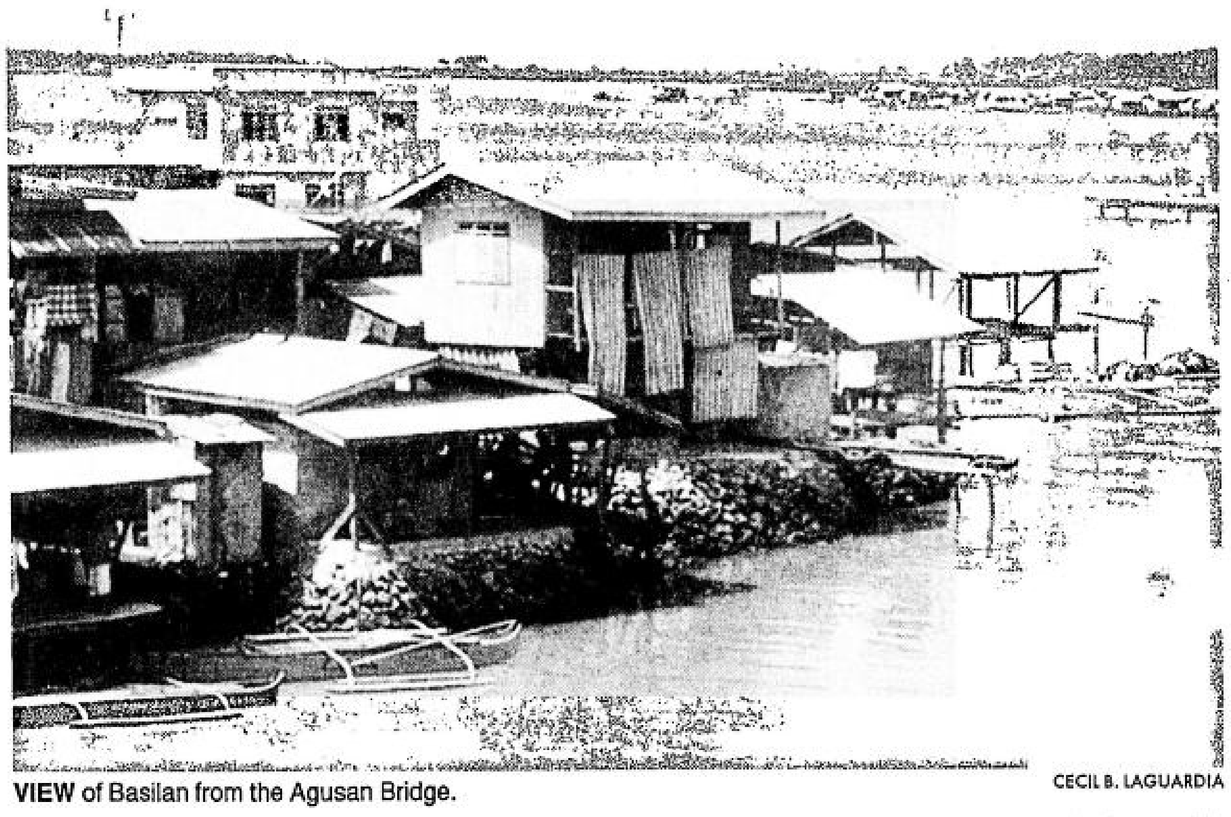
People get used to the atrocities and denounce them, commiserate in silence with the victims and move on.

Despite the burning of a part of its public market last year, the city's market day is as bustling and festive as ever.

"It's back to normal. People cannot afford to stay away from their livelihood for long," Mila said.

Mothers haggled with the vendors of ripe mangoes oblivious of their safety.

MARCIAL and Manang Ludi, Basilan residents, share a steadfast belief that Basilan will overcome its woes.
CECIL B. LAGUARDIA



VIEW of Basilan from the Agusan Bridge.
CECIL B. LAGUARDIA

Manang Ludi, however, wonders why they have to depend from nearby Zamboanga City for their supply of vegetables. She said people here just rely on planting traditional crops like corn and coconut, which makes life harder for them due to low prices, rising prices of farm inputs and poor harvest.

Even on a Sunday, several policemen stood guarding the strikingly impressive City Hall with the top floor overlooking the sea. When asked how the peace and order was, they assured everything was under control and that nothing untoward had happened. They were friendly and polite but refused a picture-taking session.

Kabunbata, a 15-minute ride from the city proper where hundreds of hectares of rubber and palm oil trees can be found, was previously owned by Hans Menzi.

"After his death, we didn't know who the real owner was, who inherited this vast tract of property," Marcial said.

Now it is being run by a cooperative composed of its employees. The cooperative had suffered management problems since then. Life used to be better, according to Marcial, a teacher in a nearby barangay and a son of a former employee.

Together with Manang Ludi, whose departed husband was also a supervisor in the company, they recounted how employees and families enjoyed their many privileges like free housing, a px-goods store, janitorial maintenance of the whole complex which often hosted field trips of nearby schools and organizations, free medical services, etc.

Differences

"*Malaki na ang kaibahan ngayon* (It's much different these days). When Menzi died, the management was never the same."

Today, the wooden houses remain, still eye-catching even with their crumbly state. "*Noon, may nagtsi*-check *kung kailangan ng i*-repair *ang bahay mo* (In the past, somebody checked if your house needed repair)."

The Post Exchange (Px)-goods store has turned into a sari-sari (retail) store with a few grocery goods to offer. The grasses had grown taller since, and the surroundings were unkempt. "*Noon talagang ang linis* at well-manicured *ang mga* lawns (In the past, the lawns were really clean and well-manicured)."

Most of the people here earn a living through working in the plantation. But now, they said, that could hardly raise a family. A worker is paid P70 per day, which can barely buy three kilos of rice. For an average family of five, that could mean doing away with other basic necessities like shelter and clothing, or struggling with the barest. To survive, the workers plant vegetables and bananas.

"With permission, they are allowed to plant in-between palm oil or rubber trees if they want to.''

Despite these difficulties, Manang Ludi and Marcial still believe that Isabela is the best place to spend their whole life with. Two of Manang Ludi's children have gone abroad but she credits Isabela for giving them their dreams in life.

They just hope peace comes soon so progress can follow. But with an unwavering hope possessed by every Mindanaoan, they believe it will someday come.

For a place thought of as unfortunate for being a war zone, Isabela proudly reared individuals whose faith in God's grace is endless, and whose devotion to their homeland burns brighter every second.

On our way back to Zamboanga City aboard the much-faster and air-conditioned MV Sakaluran, a surge of hope erased our doubts that Mindanao's quest is not lost, with many Manang Ludis and Marcials toiling and praying silently but relentlessly for its comeuppance.

DIOCESAN PROJECT

Concert by priests gets tremendous support

THE CONCERT dubbed "A House Built by Tunes" has gained tremendous support from Davaoeños as it turned out to be a huge success based on the ticket sales and impressive number of people that flocked to the Davao Convention Center for the two-night performance of the diocesan priests.

During the premiere night on Dec. 13, it was learned that there was a need to add about a hundred more seats at the Davao Convention Center to accommodate more people.

The clergy concert was a fund-raising activity for the construction of the Davao clergy house at the back of the Archbishop's residence.

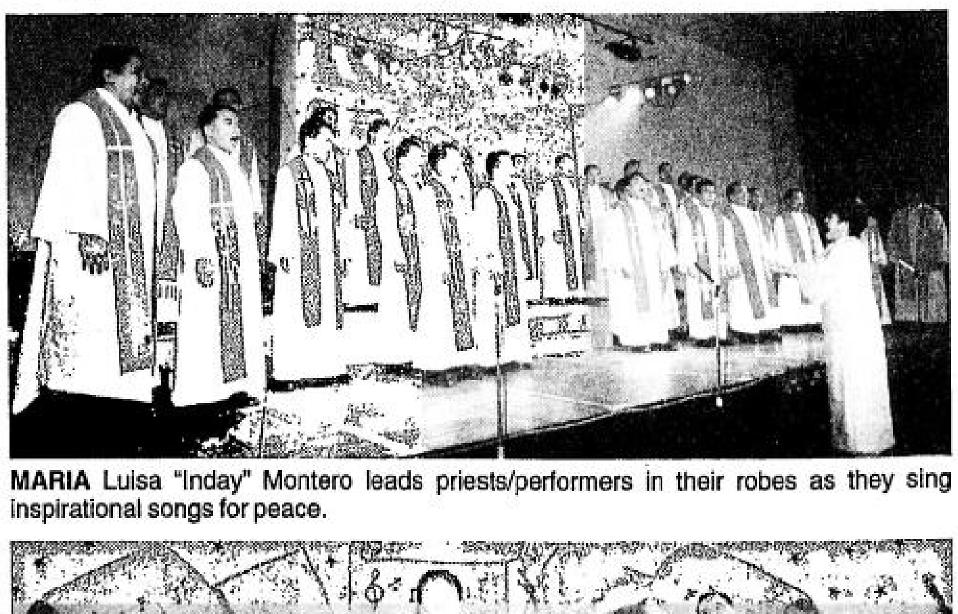
At the concert, the priests sang, complete with choreography, Broadway, OPM, and inspirational songs.

The night was made livelier as the priests did the Hagibis and Latin-beat dance and song numbers that filled the venue with laughter.

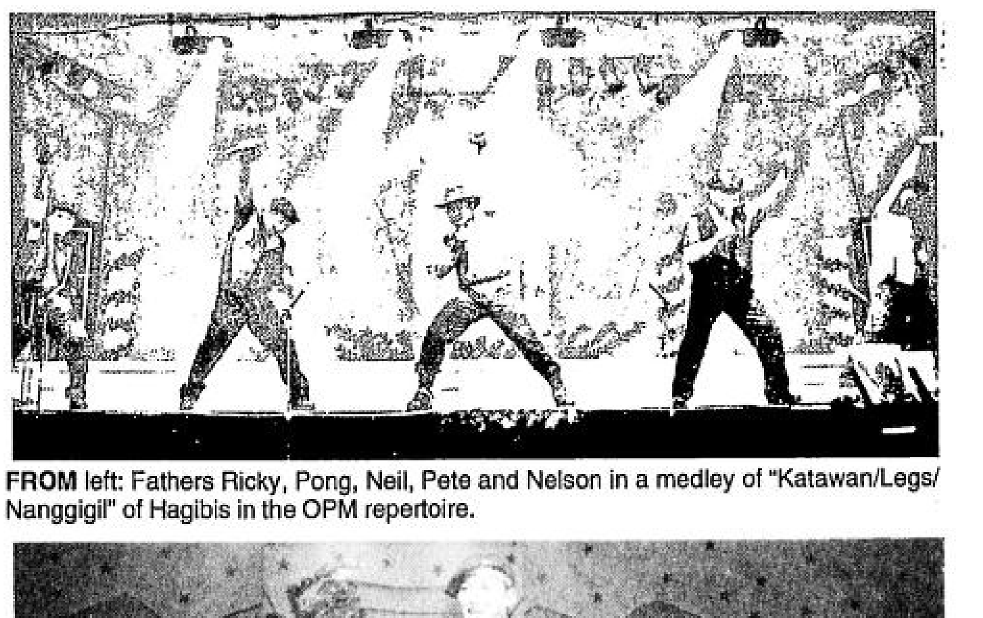
Many expressed positive feedback on the concert and the production staff headed by Davao artists Bing Locsin and Maria Luisa "Inday" Montero.

With all the positive response, it is hoped that the organizers will soon break the news that "A House Built by Tunes" concert will have a repeat due to a "public demand."

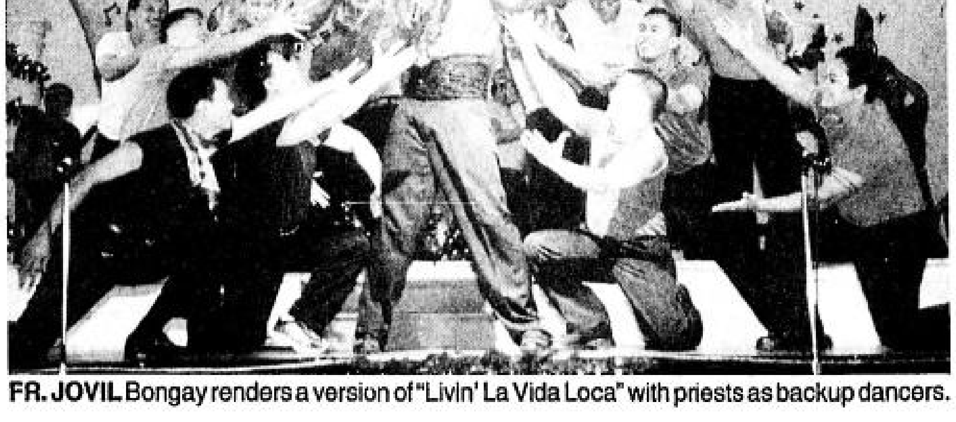
Initially, they are considering holding it in a bigger venue to accommodate a bigger crowd.



MARIA Luisa "Inday" Montero leads priests/performers in their robes as they sing inspirational songs for peace.

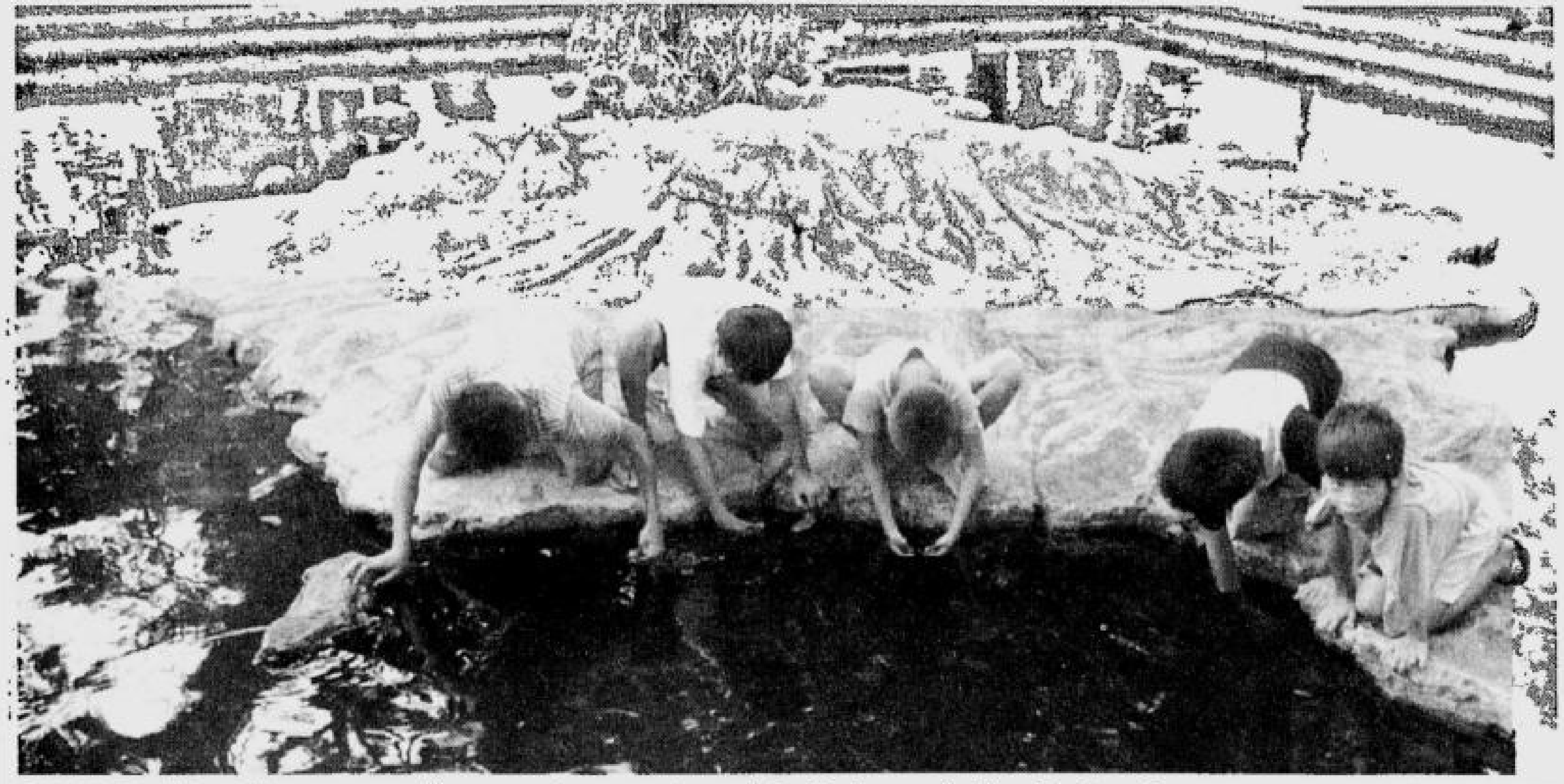


FROM left: Fathers Ricky, Pong, Neil, Pete and Nelson in a medley of "Katawan/Legs/Nanggigil" of Hagibis in the OPM repertoire.



FR. JOVIL Bongay renders a version of "Livin' La Vida Loca" with priests as backup dancers.

PRIESTS dance to a Latin beat "Bailamos."



CHILDREN will be children even as military operations are going on in Basilan in pursuit of the Abu Sayyaf. DENNIS SABANGAN

New ARMM gov vows to be opposite of Nur

(From page A1)

self-rule to the Muslim regions that have been mired in poverty and wracked by decades of fighting between the government and Moro rebels.

But allegations of Misuari's poor governance prompted a 15-member MNLF executive council led by Hussin to sack Misuari as MNLF chair earlier this year.

The charges also prompted the Macapagal administration to endorse Hussin's candidacy in the ARMM elections.

Out of country

In a press forum before he was sworn in, Hussin said he preferred that Misuari stay out of the country but that it was up to Manila to bring about his repatriation later this month so he could face trial for rebellion. Malaysia is expected to deport Misuari on Jan. 15.

Hussin said most of Misuari's commanders and loyalists who took part in his revolt had realized their mistake and rejoined the mainstream of the MNLF.

"They admitted they were misled. Some of them told us that they were just following orders because at that time Misuari was still the governor," he said.

"We have them on our side already." he added.

Hussin also said he would support any peace agreement that the government would forge with an MNLF breakaway group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), which is still seeking to set up an independent state in Mindanao. The MILF, however, has signed a ceasefire agreement and opened peace talks with Manila last year.

Challenge

Hussin's assumption of office, however, is being challenged in court by Alvarez Isnaji who took over as ARMM governor last year when Malacañang suspended Misuari.

Isnaji said Hussin would be violating the law should he assume office before Sept. 30.

Isnaji's counsels led by lawyer Macapanton Abas Jr. has also filed with the Office of the Ombudsman charges of usurpation of powers against Hussin.

Isnaji, one of the MNLF leaders who ousted Misuari, said he would raise the issue before the Supreme Court.

"The issue of assumption (into office) must be expressly provided for by law and cannot be shortened nor extended by mere statute," Isnaji said in a press statement.

"No law other than RA 9054 can prevail and control the legal assumption of newly elected officials without transgressing the basic rules on legal jurisprudence," he added. *Reports from Dona Z. Pazzibugan in Manila; Edwin O. Fernandez and Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau; and AFP*

ARMM ELECTED
OMPOUND, CO ATO CIT
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THE SEAL of ARMM and of approval is handed over to new Gov. Parouk Hussin during the installation rites presided over by President Macapagal on Saturday. EDWIN BACASMAS

RP envoy to the rescue of heart baby

(From page A1)

practically begged for it.

Almira Perez, a resident of Antipolo City, yesterday recounted her ordeal at the US Embassy on Jan. 3 in seeking visas for herself and her infant son Joshua Mark that would allow him to undergo surgery in the United States for a congenital heart ailment.

In the end the Perezes' were given single-entry visas valid for a year. They are scheduled to fly to New York on Jan. 10 courtesy of Northwest Airlines, which gave them free roundtrip tickets.

Eight-month-old Joshua's surgery—to treat a rare ailment called tetralogy of fallot—is scheduled on Jan. 15 under the auspices of the Gift of Life Foundation chaired by Rev. Andrew Topp. The operation will also be performed at the Montefiore Medical Center.

Gift of Life is also sponsoring Jerden's operation, except that the US Embassy rejected her and her mother Eden's visa applications.

Eden, 31, said she had presented documents including official letters from the foundation as well as the hospital, but that the male embassy officer who interviewed her was unmoved.

She is hoping against hope that the embassy will reconsider its position.

Rejected

Almira Perez told the INQUIRER that on Jan. 3, the female embassy officer initially rejected her and her son's visa applications.

She said the officer did not even bother to read the documents she presented.

"In fact she already denied our applications and put the corresponding marks on our papers," Almira recalled. "But I refused to leave the booth and practically begged her to read the papers that I submitted."

Almira said that after reading the documents, the officer asked "mocking questions about my property and my capability to finance our US trip."

"I told her, 'We are not going to the United States as tourists but as beneficiaries of the Gift of Life Foundation,'" she said.

She added that the officer then "hesitantly approved our visa applications," and she and Joshua received their single-entry visas the following day.

Almira said she had written Northwest Airlines requesting free roundtrip tickets on the advice of her doctor, Emerencia Collado of the Philippine Heart Center (PHC).

She said she could not afford the P500,000 in expenses required by the PHC to treat Joshua.

According to Almira, Reverend Topp learned of her family's plight from her fellow born-again Christians, and volunteered to shoulder all of their medical and personal expenses in the United States.

She expressed hope that the US Embassy would reconsider its rejection of the Sampangs' visa applications for humanitarian reasons.

She said it was only with the help of charitable institutions like the Gift of Life Foundation that the lives of young heart patients like her son Joshua and Jerden Sampang could be saved.

Inconceivable

Pasay City Mayor Wenceslao Trinidad said he was willing to surrender his tourist visa to the US Embassy so the Sampangs' visa applications would be approved.

He said it was inconceivable that a democratic country like the United States would deny entry to Jerden and her mother.

Trinidad said he would write the embassy tomorrow to personally appeal in behalf of the Sampangs and others like them who, he pointed out, should be issued visas on humanitarian grounds.

At the House, Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to take up the cudgels for the Sampangs.

Beltran said in a statement that the President "should stand up to the US Embassy and defend the welfare of her constituents," and that the embassy should be held accountable should Jerden take a turn for the worse.

"Her life depends on that surgery and because of the embassy's lack of compassion, the little girl's life is in greater danger," said the party list representative who is a grandfather of 27.

Beltran also said the embassy officer who rejected the Sampangs' visa applications should be "deported immediately and declared *persona non grata* in the Philippines."

He assailed the officer for supposedly acting with "racist superiority."

Beltran, a militant labor leader, was denied a US visa when he applied for one in the 1970s. *With a report from Juliet L. Javellana*

28 terrorists arrested

rom page A1)

ia were found during the swoop.

Singapore and Malaysia have upported the US-led crackdown on errorism since Sept. 11.

The Ministry of Home Affairs aid the 15 suspects arrested in ingapore had links to militant roups in Malaysia and Indonesia. ourteen of those arrested were ingaporeans. The 15th suspect ised to be Singaporean but is now Malaysian citizen.

The 15 were detained under Singapore's Internal Security Act, which allows people to be held indefinitely without trial.

Thirteen of the suspects are members of a clandestine organization called "Jemaah Islamiah."

"The activities of this group included fund collection for terrorist groups, active surveillance of establishments in Singapore targeted for terrorist bombing, as well as attempts to procure materials for bomb construction, including large quantities of ammonium nitrate," the Ministry of Home Affairs said.

Some members of the network are believed to have fled the country. The 15 people were arrested between Dec. 9 and Dec. 24.

Singapore's second defense minister, Rear Adm. Teo Chee Hean, was quoted on Saturday as saying that Singapore was on guard against terrorists but potential threats should not interrupt people's lives.

Jane's report

Teo was responding to questions about a Jane's Intelligence Review report that said members of Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network had planned—then aborted—an "operation" in the city-state.

The Jane's report, titled "Al-Qaida's infrastructure in Asia," said al-Qaida's network in the United States, Europe and East Africa had been "significantly disrupted" due to investigations and arrests.

"In Asia, however, a network of cells and support structures remains virtually intact," the report said.

"Considering the ease with which al-Qaida could mount an operation in a Muslim country or a country with a substantial Muslim population, countries like Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and the Philippines become vulnerable," the Jane's report said.

The Jane's report also said that al-Qaida members, if considering attacks in Asia, would likely target "countries that have supported the US-led anti-terrorist campaign."

Muslims comprise about 15 percent of the 4 million people in Singapore, a wealthy, highly modernized Southeast Asian city-state.

Mahathir

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Saturday vowed to hunt other local militants suspected of having links to the al-Qaida terrorist organization.

The arrests "show that we are firm in carrying out our pledge to take action against terrorists," Mahathir told reporters.

"We will arrest them if they create trouble in the country, irrespective of whether they are locals or foreigners," he said.

Police are trying to confirm reports that some of the KMM members arrested had links with Zacarias Moussaoui, the only person charged in connection with the Sept. 11 attacks.

Moussaoui faces six charges in the United States of conspiring to kill thousands of people in the suicide hijackings.

Norian also said one of those arrested was suspected of having links to Khalid al-Mihdhar and Nawaf Alhazmi, who were hijackers aboard one of the commercial jetliners used in the attacks.

American and Malaysian officials say Moussaoui, al-Mihdhar and Alhazmi all visited Malaysia during 2000.

Mahathir was asked on Saturday whether the government was concerned that the al-Qaida was using Malaysia as a base.

"It is not just Malaysia, but all countries are at risk of being used," Mahathir replied.

The 13 suspects arrested in Malaysia the past two months are being held under a law which allows for indefinite detention without trial.

More than a dozen alleged members of the Islamic militant group were arrested under the security act last year, in several operations starting in early August. None have been brought to trial.

Several of those arrested are members of Malaysia's largest opposition party, the fundamentalist Pan-Malaysian Islamic Party, which claims that Mahathir is using fear about Islamic extremism in the wake of the Sept. 11 attacks as an excuse to crack down on political opponents.

Malaysian officials say more arrests are possible in connection with the local militant group.

"We must continue to hunt them down because we know . . . they have set off bombs in Indonesia, and if they can set off bombs in Indonesia they can also set off bombs in Malaysia," Mahathir said. *Reports from AP, AFP and Reuters*

Cell phone thefts not only in RP

(From page A1)

phone thefts, as the industry struggles to stay ahead of criminals who can reconfigure handsets and sell them on international markets.

According to experts, cell phone thieves range from the professional with a ready market, normally outside the UK, to the street robber who just grabs the phone and runs away.

Cell phone snatching has also become rampant in Metro Manila, according to the Philippine National Police which had recorded 522 cases nationwide as of the middle of last year. Police said the statistics could be higher as most victims do not bother to report the thefts.

The PNP has identified at least 13 syndicates specializing in cell phone snatching as of September last year.

In East London, the shooting of a young woman in a mobile phone robbery on New Year's Day has sharpened the country's focus on this particularly modern crime wave.

Recent police figures show that a third of all London street robbers take only the mobile phone, while four in 10 muggings in Birmingham, Britain's second-largest city, involve a phone.

"It's street crime, and I believe the fact that it's being tied in with mobiles is a sign of the times," said Jack Wraith of the Mobile Phone Industry Crime Action Forum.

Prevention:
Common sense

He argues that the best prevention for phone muggings is common sense about how and where they are used.

"It's no different to people stealing cars, going for joy rides," he said in an interview on a mobile phone. "It's just that the mobile phone is currently currency on the streets."

The PNP confirmed to the INQUIRER that cell phone snatching is still on the rise and that they plan to launch an information campaign on how to avoid becoming a victim.

Teenagers

Experts say such street thefts largely involve teenagers, who often only use the phone until its rightful owner cancels the service with the operator.

In addition to network services being switched off, each handset also has a built-in electronic identifier known as an IMEI.

But for large-scale sophisticated criminals, technology has provided a way around tracking and blocking calls from phones by their IMEIs.

"The difficulty with that over the last couple of years is that software to basically give a phone a new identity has become very readily available, very cheaply available over the Internet," says Mike Caldwell of Vodafone Group Plc.

High-speed, third generation mobile handsets, due to be launched within the next year, can make IMEIs harder to crack, he adds.

But Wraith says eliminating theft through technology may be complicated by the number of different networks, each of which would have to block a number.

The increase in phone thefts has coincided with higher prices, as network operators have lowered or withdrawn subsidies on handsets initially intended to drive subscriber growth.

Britain is now a mature mobile market, with three out of four people owning a cell phone, and mobile operators such as Vodafone, Orange, mmO2 and Deutsche Telekom's One 2 One now increasingly focused on the amount earned from each customer instead of the overall number. *Reuters*

PBA greatest games on TV

THE PBA's Greatest Games show today features one of the most exciting PBA championship series ever, the 1996 PBA Commissioner's Cup Finals between Alaska Milk and Formula Shell, which was decided via a winner-take-all Game 7. The show starts at 4 p.m. on IBC-13.

Sunday SPORTS

AL S. MENDOZA, Editor ▪ EDWIN M. VILLANUEVA, Assistant Editor

SPORTS ON TV

COMPILED BY LORENZO MANGUIAT

POOL: World Pool League 2001 at 8 p.m. on ESPN
BASKETBALL: NBA Inside Stuff at 7:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports
US NCAA—Georgetown vs Rutgers at 8 a.m. (r – midnight), Tulsa vs Fresno State at 1 p.m., Wake Forest vs North Carolina at 6 p.m. (r), Louisville vs UAB at 3 p.m. (r) on ESPN

ANOTHER MILESTONE

Jordan joins 30,000-point club

WASHINGTON—Michael Jordan faced his floundering former team for the first time Friday, and the Chicago Bulls could only watch as he marked another NBA milestone—30,000 career points—in a Washington Wizards uniform.

Jordan continued his recent scoring binge with 19 of his 29 points in the second quarter and surpassed 30,000 for his career as his Wizards cruised to an 89-83 victory over the Bulls.

Jordan was selected third overall by the Bulls in 1984 and led them to six championships in eight years in the 1990s. Perhaps the greatest player of all time, he retired after the sixth title in 1998, when Phil Jackson resigned as coach.

That signaled the breakup of the Bulls, who have yet to recover. Jordan became minority owner and president of the Wizards two years ago and this year made a spectacular return to the court, lifting his team into the playoff chase.

"This is special in a sense that we're trying to claw our way out of the basement of losing teams," Jordan said. "If we have to step on other people to move up, then that's what we do. That's the importance of it more than anything.

"I like to think that we're moving in the right direction, and Chicago may not be moving in the right direction, and I don't want to be compared with them. I want to show some separation."

Jordan scored 51 and 45 points in his last two games, lifting his scoring average to 24.4 points, eighth in the league. He surpassed his average in the first half, when he joined Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Wilt Chamberlain and Karl Malone in the 30,000-point club.

Needing 15 points at the outset, Jordan reached the plateau with a pair of free throws with 5:28 left in the second quarter.

Jordan's second-quarter explosion gave the Wizards a 57-37 lead at halftime. The Bulls rallied in the second half, but a tired Jordan made sure they did not get too close.

In the final minute, Chicago cut the deficit to 87-81 and Ron Mercer broke in for what appeared to be a layup. Trailing the play, Jordan soared and caught the shot in mid-air, pounding it against the backboard and barking at Mercer.

Lakers 118, Suns 86

In Los Angeles, Shaquille O'Neal returned from an injury and collected 24 points and nine rebounds in just 28 minutes as Los Angeles cruised to their most lopsided victory of the season, 118-86 over Phoenix on Friday.

O'Neal was activated from the injured list prior to the game after missing the last five contests with an arthritic big toe on his right foot.

The Lakers were just 3-2 without O'Neal but had no trouble regaining their National Basketball Association championship form.

Los Angeles never trailed and led by as many as 12 points in the first quarter. The Lakers were clinging to a 39-37 lead early in the second period before closing the first half with a 21-8 run.

O'Neal had 10 points, two rebounds and an assist during the burst, which gave the Lakers a 60-45 halftime lead. Phoenix never got closer than 11 points thereafter and Los Angeles had its largest lead at the final horn.

Kobe Bryant scored 18 points and Samaki Walker—who filled in at center while O'Neal was injured—added 11 and 10 rebounds for the Lakers.

Raptors 101, Cavaliers 91

Vince Carter scored 34 points as Toronto beat Cleveland for the 10th straight time.

Antonio Davis and Alvin Williams added 17 points each for the Raptors, who have won six of eight overall. Carter also had eight assists and shot 15-for-24 from the field.

Keon Clark, starting in place of the injured Hakeem Olajuwon, had 15 points and 11 rebounds for the Raptors, who never trailed.

Ricky Davis led Cleveland with 15 points.

Magic 109, Nets 96

Tracy McGrady scored 35 points before being ejected along with Kenyon Martin of New Jersey for a late scuffle.

After Martin hammered McGrady with a forearm as he went up for a layup with the Magic ahead 98-92, McGrady got off the floor and charged at Martin. The two bumped and shoved and Martin threw a jab before officials and teammates separated the two. Orlando outscored the Nets 11-4 the rest of the way.

Mike Miller added 18 points for Orlando, which hit 42 of 80 shots from the field. Troy Hudson and Pat Garrity, who combined with McGrady on a 17-2 run at the end of the third quarter that gave Orlando the lead for good, added 14 apiece.

Jason Kidd led the Nets with 24 points.

Heat 89, Celtics 66

Eddie Jones scored 23 points and Brian Grant added 18 points and 12 rebounds as Miami snapped the Celtics' seven-game home winning streak.

The win, the second straight on the road for the Heat after a six-game losing streak, was coach Pat Riley's 300th with Miami.

It was the worst offensive output of the season for the Celtics and the second-lowest point total in franchise history since the inception of the shot clock.

Pacers 92, Spurs 82

Al Harrington came off of the bench to score 18 points as Indiana beat the Spurs, who shot a season-low 33 percent.

Indiana, which snapped a two-game losing streak, placed five players in double figures as Jermaine O'Neal scored 16 points, Jeff Foster added 14 and Reggie Miller 13.

San Antonio, which had a two-game winning streak snapped, was led by Tim Duncan with 22 points and 12 rebounds. Steve Smith added 12 points. *AP/AFP*

COMPLETE RESULTS

Toronto 101, Cleveland 91; Washington 89, Chicago 83; Miami 89, Boston 66; Orlando 109, New Jersey 96; Atlanta 113, Memphis 109; Minnesota 93, Utah 86; Indiana 92, San Antonio 82; LA Clippers 82, Denver 80; Philadelphia 87, Seattle 77; LA Lakers 118, Phoenix 86. **AFP**

JORDAN all set to unleash the free throw that gave him his 30,000th point. AP

Running the show

NBA NOTES

Henry Liao

SOMETIMES one wonders who really runs the show in the NBA—the coach or the players.

True, it's the coach who is the superior with his power to field the men he desires and also freely supervises the flow of a game. Yet it's the high-salaried players who, more often than not, get their way in a confrontation.

How difficult it is for a bench strategist to deal with the many prima donna who populate NBA locker rooms today.

Remember how superstar Penny Hardaway—then of Orlando and now of Phoenix—chase Brian Hill out of the Magic five years ago by initiating an oust-the-coach movement in midseason?

Or how a majority of Denver players conspired to boycott a team practice last season because they felt coach Dan Issel had mistreated young frontliner Raef LaFrentz?

Of course, Issel's now gone, having resigned a day after Christmas 2001 following the completion of a team-imposed four-game suspension that arose after he made an insensitive ethnic remark to a taunting spectator in a Dec. 22 home loss against Charlotte.

Coaching in the NBA can be a taxing, pressure-laden experience, indeed.

A coach has to deal with the many tasks and ramifications of his profession. He has to be able to cook up strategy, study the opposition and even deal with recruiting.

Moreover, the NBA coach has to contend with the issue of free agency that has given rise to the highly paid, spoiled players with guaranteed contracts.

How to deal with them without sacrificing the team's interest, his profession's and that of his own has added an even greater burden, and challenge, to an already-pressured pro coach.

Coaches assert that today's average NBA player is functionally uncoachable and is just surviving on sheer talent.

Worse, he is just to gifted that he is deaf to criticism of his own weaknesses and would rather believe his agent's compliments.

Archers still up; Kutitap scores

GAMES TUESDAY:
3:30 p.m.—Ana Freezers vs Shark
5:30 p.m.—ICTSI-La Salle vs Kutitap

ICTSI-LA Salle subdued Blu Detergent anew, 83-73, yesterday and kept its hold of the solo lead in the 2001 PBL Challenge Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

The Archers, who also beat the Detergent Kings (65-54) last Dec. 1, improved to 8-3 and bolstered their chances of gaining an automatic semifinal slot.

Blu dropped to 7-5 in a tie for third spot with Welcoat Paints. Earlier, Kutitap Toothpaste nipped Welcoat Paints, 73-72, to snap the latter's four-game winning run. Kutitap rose to 6-6, while Welcoat fell to 7-5.

Busy NBA sked ahead

NBA fans will be in for a big treat this week when the NBA's biggest stars like Kobe Bryant, Vince Carter, Allen Iverson, Kevin Garnett and Tracy McGrady go head-to-head in key games that will be telecast by Solar Entertainment Corporation.

Today (Jan. 6), Garnett and the Minnesota Timberwolves face the Atlanta Hawks at 9 p.m. on NBN 4.

Tomorrow, (Jan. 7), Bryant, Shaquille O'Neal and the reigning NBA champion Los Angeles Lakers battle Carter, Hakeem Olajuwon and the Toronto Raptors live on the Solar cable channel (Skycable-24, Homecable-17) at 9 a.m., with a replay at 8 p.m.

On Thursday (Jan. 10), the league's top scorer Iverson and the Philadelphia 76ers take on McGrady and the Orlando Magic at 10 p.m. on NBN 4 in a clash of Atlantic Division rivals.

20 more cagers named to RP training pool

BY JUNE NAVARRO

PINCH-HITTING for the bedridden Ron Jacobs, San Miguel Beer coach Jong Uichico named 20 more cagers to the national training pool to join the 17 PBA aspirants earlier nominated by the ailing Asian Games coach.

Uichico added eight players from the PBA, seven MBA stars, four PBL hopefuls and an NCAA standout to the list that will see action in the second phase of the tryouts starting tomorrow.

MBA hotshots Rommel Adducul, Chris Clay, Rafi Reavis, Jeffrey Flowers, Chris Calaguio, Omanzie Rodriguez and John Ferriols have been picked to the pool along with the PBL's Renren Ritualo, Mike Cortez, Jimmy Alapag and Rob Johnson.

Sunday Salvacion, a 6-foot-3 long-distance sniper from the College of St. Benilde in the NCAA, surprisingly made the roster that will mix it up in the tryouts starting 9 a.m. at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center inside the sprawling Ateneo campus.

Other PBA players released by their respective teams were Dondon Hontiveros and Olsen Racela of San Miguel, Patrick Fran of Talk N Text, Boyet Fernandez of Purefoods, Ginebra's EJ Feihl, Pop Cola's Johnny Abarrientos, Michael Hrabak of Shell and Alaska's John Arigo.

Uichico will take over the coaching chores while the 59-year-old Jacobs recovers from a stroke that hit him exactly two weeks ago. Jacobs is still recuperating inside the Intensive Care Unit (ICU) of the St. Luke's Medical Center.

Purefoods coach Eric Altamirano and Barangay Ginebra's Allan Caidic will provide Uichico a helping hand in conducting the tryouts.

Meanwhile, a PBA board member bared that the league's Board of Governors would most likely reject Viva Vintage's proposal of a four-times-a-week playing schedule.

Mike A hitting Jungolf ceremonial ball

FIRST Gentleman Mike Arroyo will hit the ceremonial ball in the 5th Philippine International Junior Golf Championships set for Jan. 8-11 at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club's East Course.

The hitting of the ceremonial ball will be at 7 a.m., Monday (Jan. 7), at the East Course before the official practice round for all participants.

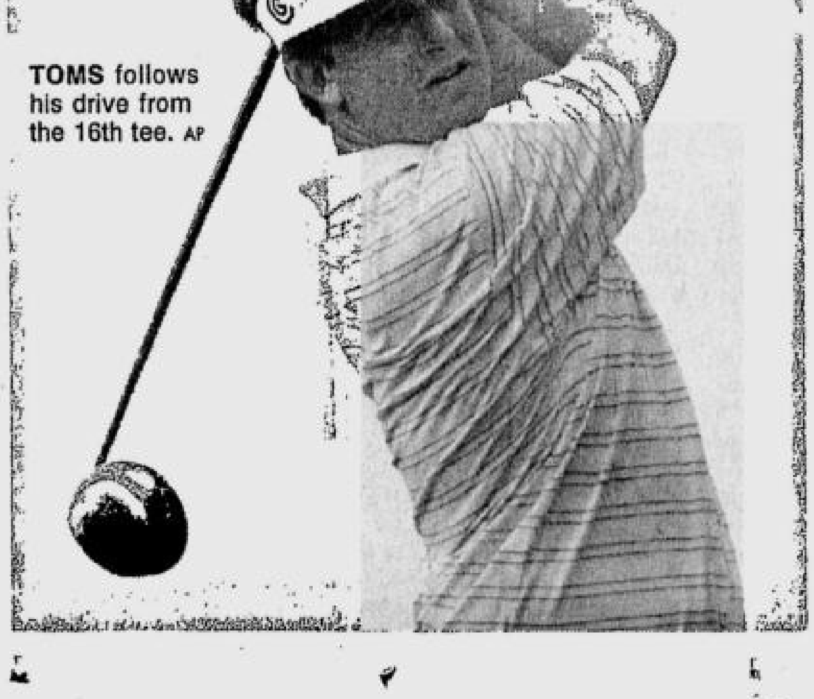
The opening ceremony is scheduled at 5 p.m., also on Monday, with National Golf Association of the Philippines president Rodolfo Feliciano as special guest and speaker.

The Philippine Air Force band will play the national anthem and provide marching music for the parade of participants.

Top junior players from Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Malaysia, South Korea, Australia and the Philippines are competing in the 72-hole event conducted by the Philippine Junior Golf Federation headed by its president Edgardo "Tito Boy" Cantada.

The championship, the country's only continuing junior event with an international participation, is sponsored by Cebu Pacific, Milo, Pagcor and Herma Group of Companies.

It is also supported by Airlift Asia, All Seasons Manpower Int'l Services, Inc., Bingo Bonanza, BiWon Edsa Korean Restaurant, CRC Concrete Mix Corp., Duty Free Phils., Fiesta Mall, Eaglecor, Inc., Edsa Shangri-La—the official hotel, Foren Corporation, Gilberto Duavit, Junior Golf Parents, Magsaysay Maritime Corp., Makati Foundry Inc., Mitsubishi Motors, Morelia Tours—the official land transportation provider, Philippine Flour Mills, Pioneer Insurance, Takanobu Taira, Toyota Otis, Sysu International and Wack Wack Golf and Country Club.



TOMS follows his drive from the 16th tee. AP

Toms, Perry share Mercedes top spot; Woods struggles

KAPALUA, Hawaii—Stiff Kona breezes got the attention of the 32-player field Friday at the Mercedes Championships, turning the Plantation Course at Kapalua Resort into a turbulent track.

Little wonder then that two players who have found their comfort zones share the lead.

PGA champion David Toms shot a 66, tied for the day's low score, while Kenny Perry had a 67 to grab the lead midway through the season-opening event on the PGA Tour. The pair came in at 11-under-par 135, one shot ahead of Canadian Open winner Scott Verplank.

Toms, celebrating his 35th birthday, had the only bogey-free round on the wind-blown 7,263-yard Plantation Course. He eagled the par-five ninth after a four-iron to 12 feet and added five more birdies.

World number one Tiger Woods stumbled on the opening hole, hitting into a hazard and three-putting on the way to a triple-bogey seven. He ended up with a one-over 74, his worst round since an opening 75 at last year's Buick Classic. He brushed past reporters without speaking after his round.

Casas rules Asian Tour qualifier

REIGNING Philippine Open titlist Cassius Casas warmed up for the big task ahead by topping the recent Asian Tour qualifier by four strokes at the Eastridge Golf Club course in Binangonan, Rizal.

Casas, a Philippine Airlines endorser who just signed an equipment deal with Titleist-Footjoy, started the season right with his rounds of 71, 70 and 73 and handily beat Robert Pactolerin and Edwin Sanchez.

Rodrigo Cuello and Benjie Magada earned the two other country exempt slots that were disputed in the qualifier conducted by the Professional Golfers Association of the Philippines under Jun Bustamante.

The five are already assured of slots in events which are sanctioned solely by the Asian Tour.

For them to get into big money tournaments co-sanctioned either by the European Tour or the Australasian Tour, they need to try their luck in the Asian Tour Qualifying School this month in Malacca, Malaysia.

Jong Arcano

2 scribes receiving awards from PSA

THE PHILIPPINE Sportswriters Association will cite two former sportswriters who gave honor to the sportswriting fraternity with their outstanding performance in journalism and government service.

Alejandro "Andy" del Rosario, who will assume the post as Philippine Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to Hungary in April, and North Cotabato Governor Emmanuel "Manny" Piñol will receive Plaques of Recognition during the PSA Annual awards on Jan. 11 at the Holiday Inn Manila.

This will be the first time the PSA will confer a special award on former sportswriters who have demonstrated their special abilities outside the sportswriting profession.

Del Rosario and Piñol will receive their awards along with Philippine and international sports champions, led by Co-Athletes of the Year Efren "Bata" Reyes of billiards and Dorothy Joy Delasin of professional golf.

The Awards Night is sponsored by Photokina Marketing and supported by the Philippine Sports Commission, Philippine Airlines and AMF Puyat.

In the 52-year-history of the PSA, Del Rosario was the only non-sports editor to be elected president of the sportswriting organization. The presidency of the country's oldest news organization, founded in 1949, is usually reserved for sports editors.

He rose from the ranks to become Manila Standard publisher and chief operating officer, a position he assumed until recently when he was appointed Ambassador to Hungary, and in a concurrent capacity, to Poland and Slovakia.

Piñol was a noted boxing columnist and TV commentator before he was elected mayor of M'Lang town and later governor of North Cotabato. He is on his second term as governor of the province which he rules fearlessly despite threats from Muslim rebels.

Piñol has also been instrumental in promoting amateur and professional boxing in Mindanao. He continues to support multi-events in the region.

TENNIS WATCH

Seles boosts US team

PERTH, Australia—Former world No. 1 Monica Seles scored a fighting victory over Spain's veteran Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario to give the United States an early 1-0 lead in the final of the million dollar Hopman Cup mixed teams' tennis tournament here Saturday. The 28-year-old Seles, now ranked 10th, beat Sanchez-Vicario — also a former No. 1 — 6-1, 7-6 (8-6) in just over an hour before a packed house of more than 8,000 people at Burswood Dome. "Arantxa got more comfortable as the match went on, and I got a bit tighter," Seles said. Seles made a blistering start, breaking Sanchez-Vicario (18th) in the fourth and sixth games of the opening set and holding on to her advantage to wrap up the set in 19 minutes. *AFP*

Venus beats Justine

GOLD COAST, Australia— World No. 3 Venus Williams gave her Australian Open chances a boost with a straight sets victory over Justine Henin at the Australian women's hardcourt tennis championship final here Saturday. Williams cruised to her 20th straight win on the WTA circuit, beating the world No. 7 Belgian 7-5, 6-2 in less than an hour. Defending champion Henin, who stretched Williams to three sets in last year's Wimbledon final, broke the Wimbledon and US Open champion in the first game of the match. The tenacious Henin then saved four set points at 5-4 against the serving might of the big-hitting American, before Williams took the set in 40 minutes. *AFP*

Smashnova prevails

AUCKLAND, New Zealand—Anna Smashnova of Israel claimed her first WTA title when she beat fifth-seeded Russian Tatiana Panova 6-2, 6-2 in the final of the ASB Bank Classic women's tennis tournament at Stanley Street on Saturday. Unseeded Smashnova, ranked 88th in the world, overcame her favored opponent, ranked 48 places higher, with a display of dogged and precise baseline play in difficult conditions. Both players were unsettled by a mischievous breeze which swirled about the enclosed stadium court, tumbling courtside umbrellas and carrying off the hats of spectators. Panova, who had the stronger serve, was most disadvantaged when gusts affected her ball toss. *AP*

RACING TIPS

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Race 4—1. Morning Glory 2. Grand Prize 3. Court General 4. Charmingly Chit
Race 5—1. Dynasouls 2. Sky Wind 3. Nine West 4. Two Thumbs Up 5. Merry Weather
Race 6—1. Show Affectino 2. Classic Star 3. Better King 4. Island King
Race 7—1. Above All 2. Cardinal Rule 3. Nagniningning 4. Mighty Dragon 5. Touch of Jax 6. Lucky Gambit
Race 8—1. Deputy Royale 2. Art of Rose 3. Burning Light 4. Our Hope
Race 9—1. Sweep Away 2. Air Express 3. Proud Spirit 4. Golden Dave
Race 10—1. Regal Mischief 2. Notable 3. Man of the Hour 4. Impeachment 5. Simpatika
Race 11—1. Cool Under Fire 2. Marinela 3. Sealed With A Kiss 4. Golden Prince 5. Ananpour 6. Champs Elysees
Race 12—1. Snake Dancer 2. Nobel Prize 3. Maximo 4. Alert One 5. Little Voices Voices
Race 13—1. Empowered 2. Gold Marlin 3. Choice for Change 4. Big Mama
Race 14—1. Spinning Bullet 2. Free Time 3. Selectee 4. El Condor 5. Top Quest 6. Royal Worship

CHANGING OF THE GUARDS

Andrada bets lose in tennis polls

By Marc Anthony Reyes

ELEVEN regional vice presidential candidates belonging to a group clamoring for reforms in Philippine tennis yesterday won via landslide, beating old-timers and bets identified with Philta president Buddy Andrada.

The development is seen as changing of the guards for local tennis which has been in the doldrums the past years. It also dented Andrada's bid to seek reelection next year.

But Andrada maintained that he's not threatened by the results and said that "personalities don't matter as long as those who won are for Philippine tennis."

According to Philta constitution, the RVPs will elect the Philta president in January next year. Andrada's term ends on Dec. 31.

Andrada, who has been the Philta boss since 1987, also described the Region 6 polls, which he personally monitored, as "very democratic."

MAMAWAL

ANDRADA

True enough, Dr. Alfredo Marte, Andrada's staunch critic in the region, won the elections, 9-3, against Pepe Tioco during the polls held at the Villa Center Court Tennis Club.

Philta's candidate Jovy Morante, who was appointed RVP last September, failed to get a single vote despite Andrada's presence.

Andrada admitted that he doesn't know Marte, who didn't even show up and was even quoted as saying "had I showed up, I might say something that would make him (Andrada) very uncomfortable."

Marte is one of the supporters of Children's Tennis Workshop president Jovy Mamawal, who initiated the call for a new Philta leadership "in order to save the sport from continuous stagnation."

"The results of the election showed that the entire tennis-playing country is fed up with his (Andrada) administration," said Mamawal. "We have just started the rebirth of Philippine tennis."

Others who won their respective regional seats are youth leader Jimbo Chavez in Region 10, lawyer David Alarcon in Region 4-B, Albay Gov. Al Francis Bichara in Region 5-A, Ferdie Medina in Region 1 and Fem Cruz in Region 2.

Also elected were Fraz Mamawal—Jovy's father – in Region 3, Efren Enverga in Region 5-B, Vice Mayor Dr. Rex Jalandoon in Region 6-A, lawyer Arthur Orito in Region 7, Eliseo Yu in Region 8 and James Ramirez in Region 9.

Results of the elections will then be submitted to the Philta main office in Manila next week, according to Andrada.

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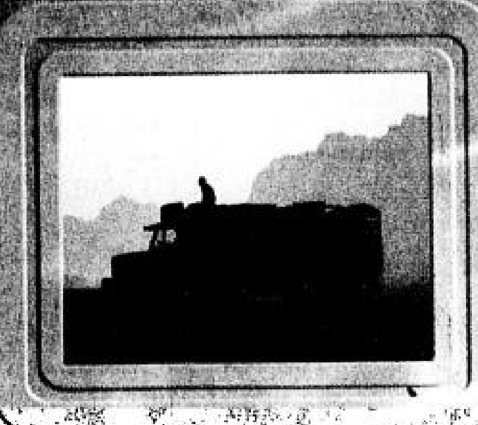

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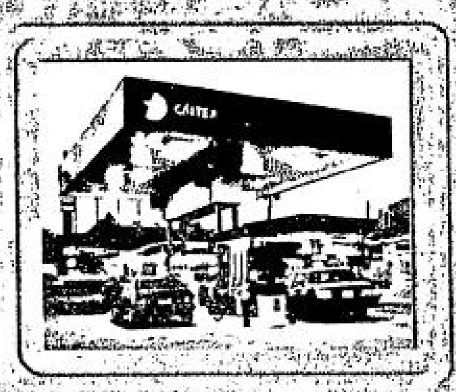

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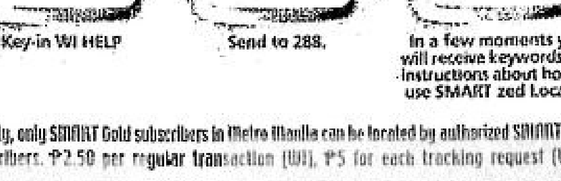
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288
To activate type WI ON. To deactivate type WI OFF. To set password...

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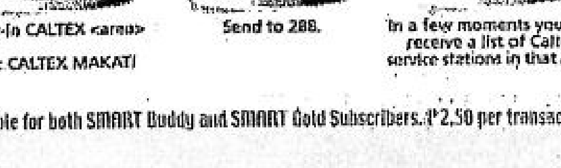
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QC bans sale of liquor in gas station shops A20

METRO

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Divisoria vendors call for truce with City Hall A20

NBI tags 3 more in Chua murder

BY JEROME ANING

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigations has tagged three more University of Santo Tomas students as suspects in the abduction and killing of Reserved Officers Training Corps cadet Mark Welson Chua last year.

The new suspects are Arnulfo Aparri Jr., Eliseo Pitarque Jr., and Emmanuel Rico Corpuz.

NBI investigators, however, declined to speculate on the role each of the three played in the Chua murder. They only said that the suspects were there when Chua was abducted and perhaps killed.

CHUA

But according to an article in the December issue of the UST paper The Varsitarian, witnesses saw the new suspects either guarding or disposing Chua's body.

An NBI source said the bureau is also considering the inclusion of two of the new suspects in the witness protection program, as their testimonies are "potential useful."

The source said the two have been offered to apply as state witnesses.

The same source said one of the suspects earlier charged for Chua's murder may soon be cleared, as the witnesses who implicated him have retracted their statements.

Genesis Binagatan, who was charged in April with murder, was allegedly seen by two witnesses as among those who dumped Chua's body in the Pasig River near the Central Post Office.

The source said the witnesses who implicated Binagatan have retracted their statements last year and went home to their respective provinces for no apparent reason.

The NBI is pushing for the extradition of another suspect, Michael Von Rainard Manangbao, who reportedly fled to the United States in October.

Chua's father Welson said that when he talked to members of Manangbao's family, the suspect had already left for the United States.

Other ROTC cadets linked to the crime are Paul Joseph Tan and Eduardo Tabrilla.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DOROTHY JONES
Nida Blanca, Dorothy Jones in real life, would have turned 66 today had she lived through the hate that drove her attackers to murder. Two months after the actress was found dead in her car, authorities are still trying to determine who killed her and why. JOAN BONDOC

Police net P80M in fake goods

THE PHILIPPINE National Police's Criminal Investigation and Detection Group seized a total of P80 million worth of counterfeit goods in a series of raids on shopping outlets in Metro Manila.

The goods consisted mostly of personal items, such as shoes, T-shirts, wallets and belts. The goods reportedly had fake Caterpillar labels on them.

Earlier, Caterpillar Inc., based in the United States, appealed to local authorities to look into complaints that counterfeit products carrying the brand name are flooding the local market.

Caterpillar Inc. lawyer and spokesman Gilbert Reyes, of the Poblador, Bautista and Reyes Law Office, said the authentic Caterpillar brand of shoes and other personal items are not being sold locally except in duty-free shops.

Reyes warned local consumers that they may be buying counterfeit products which are passed off as "original," and sold at prices similar to that of the genuine products.

Police conducted raids on retail outlets in Robinsons Place in Manila and Novaliches, Glorietta in Makati, Ali Mall, Grand Central, Ayala Alabang Town Center and Festival Mall. Two warehouses in Marikina were also raided.

Reyes said civil and criminal charges will be filed against the distributors of the counterfeit products.

CIDG officials warned that it will continue to raid outlets that display and sell the counterfeit products.

Canteen food downs 100 Pagcor workers

BY JEROME ANING

THE MANILA police yesterday began the investigation on the alleged food poisoning that hit at least 100 people, mostly employees of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation.

The victims were taken the other night to various hospitals in Manila, Makati City and Pasay City after they reportedly ate the food served at the employees' canteen at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Ermita.

Most of the victims came from the Casino Filipino, located on the ground floor of the Holiday Inn, on United Nations Avenue, corner Orosa Street, Ermita.

The victims were taken to the Manila Doctor's Hospital and Manila Medical Center after they started to feel stomach pains, muscle cramps and nausea.

Initial investigation by PO3 Ramil Vergado of the Western Police District's Station 5 showed that most of the victims got sick after they had dinner together on Jan. 3 and 4. They were reportedly served with fried rice and *lechon paksiw*.

Several victims immediately sought medical attention after the first meal, but it was not reported to the police.

When another batch of victims fell ill after the second meal, the police were informed of the incident.

PO3 Vergado said he was able to interview at least three victims at the Manila Doctors Hospital. He said most of the patients have been discharged but no one wanted to submit sworn statements.

Aside from the *lechon paksiw* and fried rice, the policeman learned that the victims also ate picadillo, fried fish, coleslaw, pancit lomi and créme top bread.

Vergardo suspected it was the *lechon paksiw* that poisoned the victims.

No victim has yet filed a complaint.

The canteen supervisor, a certain Aurea Cruz, could not be reach for comment.

Vergado said Holiday Inn authorities have turned over samples of the food from the canteen to the Bureau of Food and Aquatic Resources, where they can be tested to determine if they are spoiled or contaminated.

Miguel Leonardo, Pagcor's chief security officer, refused to entertain queries from reporters regarding the alleged food poisoning.

VACC: More crimes, more victims in 2002

BY JEROME ANING

THE VOLUNTEERS Against Crime and Corruption expects more cases to flood their office this year because of the economic situation and political uncertainties confronting the country.

In its year-end report, the VACC said the "perceived leniency and the seeming lack of political will of government in implementing the Death Penalty Law may likely hamper the effective exercise of crime control strategies."

VACC chair and president Dante Jimenez said he and the other members see civil society as playing "an expanded role" in the overall battle against crime and corruption this year.

The anti-crime group said the influx of crime victims to its office continues unabated.

"It is pathetic to note that victims of violence go to VACC rather than to government agencies mandated to assist them," the report said. "(This) could indicate a waning trust and confidence in the criminal justice system and its capability to dispense justice fairly and speedily for victims."

Jimenez underscored the importance of vigilance in fighting crime.

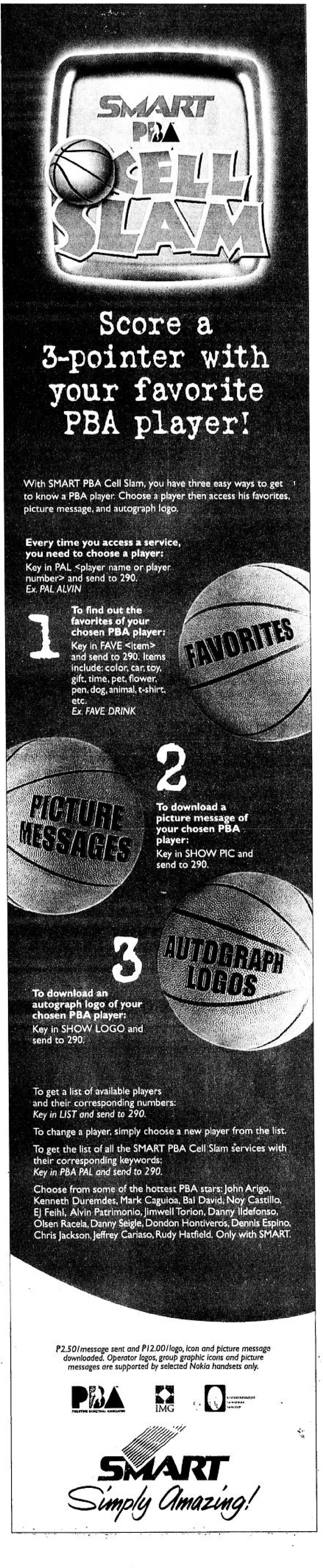
"Vigilance, especially for indigent victims who cannot afford lawyers' expensive fees, remains a vital weapon in wining cases, especially in a criminal justice system flawed by corruption and 'justice-brokering.'"

In 2001, the VACC said it received 248 crime cases, which was an increase from the 214 cases in 1999.

About 80 percent of the criminal cases VACC assisted in were heinous crime in nature. Murder was still the top culprit in the VACC list of cases with 63, followed by rape and rape with homicide, 40.

The group made 568 criminal

VACC: MORE/A20



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Divisoria vendors call for truce with City Hall

By Jerome Aning

VENDORS in Divisoria, Manila yesterday said they are willing to negotiate with Mayor Lito Atienza over the city government's controversial anti-illegal vendor drive.

"We are willing to be regulated by City Hall; we also want orderly vending on the streets," Joel Bangit, president of the Unified Vendors Association, told the Inquirer.

The UVA, whose members maintain stalls on Ilaya Street, said Atienza was being "oppressive, discriminatory, arbitrary, whimsical, capricious and vindictive" when he implemented his "Zero Obstruction" drive in Divisoria.

The vendors claimed City Hall refused to renew their business permits, and accused city and police officials of illegally dismantling their stalls and seizing their wares.

The association acquired a temporary restraining order from a Manila court on Dec. 20, but Atienza refuses to follow the order and has continued with the clearing operations.

"We are constantly subjected to fear because we know we would be raided anytime and our goods seized," Bangit said.

He added many vendors would often flee with their wares whenever the authorities are in sight.

Bangit said UVA members have always obeyed the rules set by City Hall. He said the members have already cleared out of critical portions of Ilaya and are selling their wares in designated spots on the street.

Bangit said other vendors who do not belong to their group are the ones who are hawking their wares on Ilaya, impeding vehicular flow on the street.

In their petition, the UVA cited MMC Ordinance No. 2, series of 1979, which categorizes Ilaya as a vending area and flea market.

The vendors leader said there are about 200 UVA vendors, all Manila residents, eking out a living on Ilaya, some for the past 10 to 15 years.

The city government wanted to relocate the sidewalk vendors on Ilaya and neighboring Juan Luna Street on side streets, such as Tabora, C. Planas, Sto. Cristo, M. de Santos and Padre Rada.

But Bangit said UVA vendors will surely lose profit because people do not go to the side streets.

Atienza said legitimate business owners in Divisoria are also losing profit because of the heavy traffic caused by the vendors on Ilaya and Juan Luna.

METROBRIEFS

Suicides

BERNARDO S. Dalumpines, 41, of B168 Lot 15 Paliparan Site, Dasmariñas, Cavite committed suicide after he learned that his wife had left him for another man. Taxi driver Raul F. Cacho of Vito Cruz, Manila, an alleged drug dependent, also killed himself. Police said the two suicides happened within 24 hours in Manila. Dalumpines was found dead about 6 a.m. Friday at the second floor of the Renato Recto Building, which is under construction, on Jorge Bocobo Street in Malate, Manila, said SPO1 Virgo Villareal of the Western Police District. He worked as a carpenter in the building. Police found a three-page letter in the wallet of Dalumpines. Cacho was found dead inside his room about 5 p.m. Thursday, said SPO3 Alfredo Salazar. Cacho's father told police his son had just separated from his wife allegedly because of his drug addiction. *Philip C. Tubeza*

Arrested

SUSPECTED jeepney robbers Meriel de Leon, 23, of Marikina, Norman Sombillo, 23, of Batasan Hills, Quezon City, Elma Lipa, 20, of Project 2, Quezon City; and Gari Susi, 22, also of Project 2, are now behind bars after police arrested them while waiting for their next prey on Aurora Blvd., Cubao, Quezon City Thursday. City Prosecutor Alessandro Jurado recommended bail at P100,000 for the suspects, said to be members of the Bahala Na Gang and Sigue Sigue Sputnik Gang. Central Police District lawmen arrested the suspects about midnight of Dec. 30. At least two complainants identified the suspects as the ones who robbed the passenger jeepneys they were riding in on Nov. 19 and Dec. 20. The suspects are now detained at the CPD headquarters in Camp Karingal, Quezon City. *Agnes E. Donato*

Shot for lighting firecrackers

RENATO Limhoco, 25, wanted to celebrate the New Year by lighting firecrackers, but his friend, an unidentified security guard of the Viron Transit Corporation in Sampaloc, Manila, stopped him by shooting him in the face with a 12-gauge shotgun. Miraculously, Limhoco survived. The suspect was said to be concerned that a firecracker blast might set on fire the gasoline cans and petroleum oil lubricants stocked in the terminal. Police said Limhoco was drunk when he went to the bus terminal about 1:45 a.m. of Jan. 1 and began to light up the firecrackers. The explosions attracted the attention of the suspect, who warned the victim not to light another one. When Limhoco was about to light another firecracker, the guard fired his 12-gauge shotgun, hitting Limhoco. The guard then fled after the shooting, police said. *Philip C. Tubeza*

3 children dead on C-5

SLIPPERY road conditions on the C-5 Highway caused a tragic accident that killed three children and injured five others in Makati City. Police said an oil tanker (PUD-969) lost control and fell into a shallow ravine, plowing into several residential houses in Barangay Pembo, Makati City about 3:30 p.m. Friday. Jomel Trocio, 5, his brother Jhon, 4, of Cosmos Street, Barangay Pembo, and Angelica Luna, 3, were killed in the accident. Injured were Susan Luna, 35, Judith Cena, 26, and her brother Mikoy, 7, Thelmo Liboon, driver of the tanker and his unidentified helper. Residents of the area blamed the busted pipe on the C-5 and the absence of a drainage system under the connecting bridge in Barangay Pembo and Fort Bonifacio for the accident. *Alcuin Papa*

NBI brings back murder suspect who fled to US

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE NATIONAL Bureau of Investigation brought back to the country a former overseas contract worker who allegedly shot dead his live-in partner, her mother, and injured her cousin in Tondo, Manila in August 2000.

Lawyer Ricardo Diaz, NBI-Interpol chief, arrived on Friday with suspect Robert Santiago in tow.

Santiago, 40, was arrested six months ago in Los Angeles by agents of the US Federal Bureau of Investigation.

The suspect faces double murder and frustrated murder charges for allegedly killing his live-in partner Sandra Bulalin, 27, of Maricaban Street, Pasay City, her mother Gloria, 56; and for injuring Sandra's cousin Andres Bulalin Boyrante.

Santiago allegedly committed the crime on Aug. 4, 2000 near his home in Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila.

At the time, he and Bulalin were said to be fighting over their 11-year-old son.

According to the NBI, Santiago took his son from Bulalin's house in Pasay City. Bulalin reportedly wanted to break up with Santiago when she learned that he already had a family.

The two met in Japan where they both worked.

Bulalin, her mother, and cousin went to Santiago's house to get the boy. But as they were stepping out of Bulalin's Honda Civic, Santiago began firing his gun, killing the woman and her mother instantly.

Santiago then fled to the United States.

The NBI asked US authorities to extradite Santiago. The FBI found Santiago in Los Angeles, California and arrested him.

VACC . . .

(From page A19)

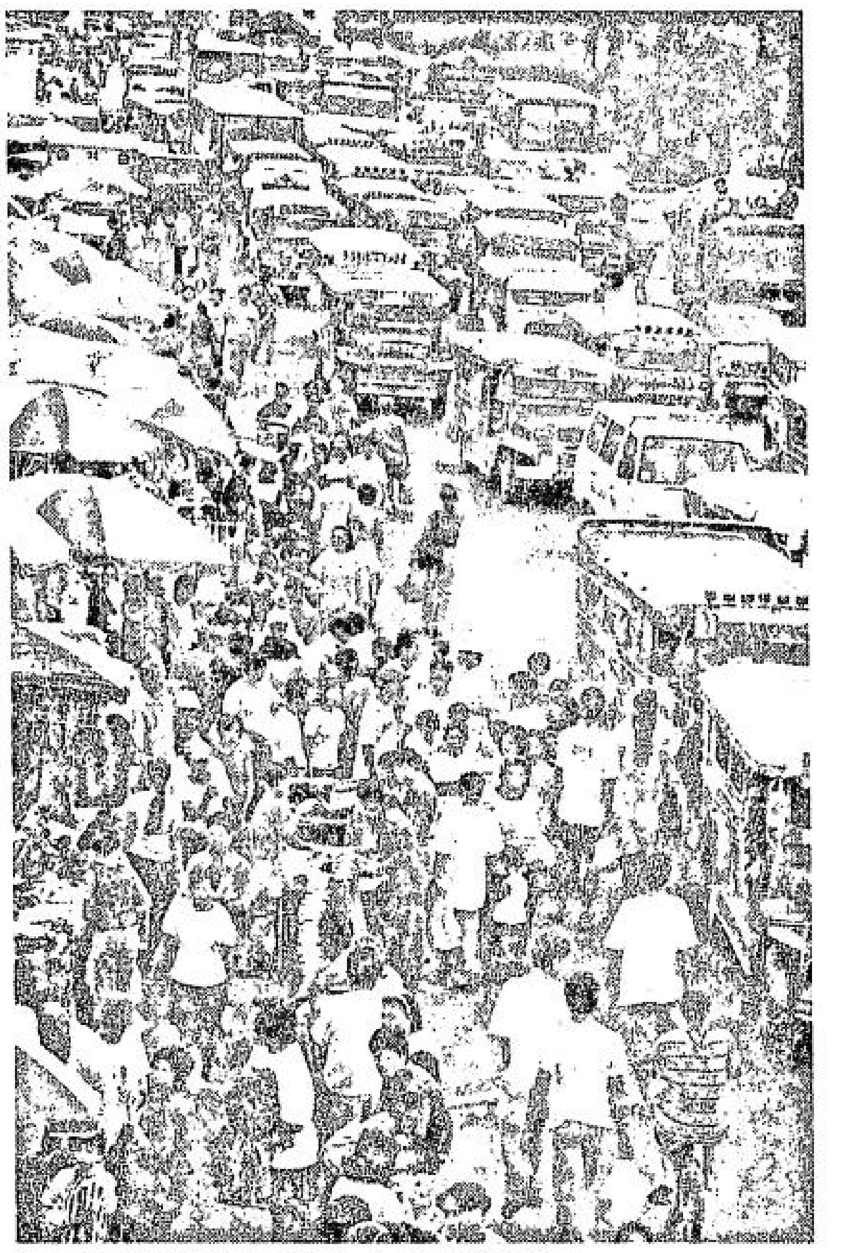
case referrals to the Department of Justice, the National Prosecution Service, various regional and metropolitan trial courts, Office of the Ombudsman, Public Attorneys Office, National Bureau of Investigation and Philippine National Police.

The VACC also received a total of 332 complaints of graft and corruption last year. The complaints included reports of corruption in tax collections, court trials, police operations, government purchases and public works projects.

The group initiated the filing of plunder charges against former President Joseph Estrada. It joined anti-Estrada groups such as Kompil and E-Just in calling for the ouster of the former president.

The VACC monitored 744 court hearings under its Court Watch program. Among the 10 cases the VACC assisted in this year were the Ozone Disco Fire case, where the promulgation came in favor of the prosecution, the Ovilla bribery case and the Manalili plunder case.

Jimenez said the VACC, despite its limited financial resources, "will continue to forge ahead in pursuing its mission, despite the greater difficulties and bigger obstacles" that lie ahead.



MANGGAHAN DOES A DIVISORIA

Commuters, vendors and motorists vie for space in this chaotic scene in Manggahan, Fairview, Quezon City. They all seem to be paying homage to the anarchy in Divisoria, Manila. VAL HANDUMON

QC bans sale of liquor in gas station shops

QUEZON City Liquor Licensing and Regulatory Board (LLRB) Chair Alberto Galarpe on Friday suspended the issuance of new liquor licenses to service stores and shops in all gasoline stations in the city.

Galarpe also barred storeowners from renewing their licenses.

Galarpe issued the order after Councilor Ariel Inton, of the city's fourth district, announced that numerous gasoline station service shops have been openly selling liquor to minors and have even allowed them to consume the liquor within their premises.

In a memorandum, Galarpe directed Liquor Licensing officer Nila Carig to "hold action on service stores in gas stations for liquor permits renewal or new applications for retail or serving," pending an investigation into Inton's report.

Galarpe also assigned inspectors to conduct spot checks and report the violators to the LLRB.

"We will also coordinate with the Central Police District and barangay leaders for the monitoring of gas station service stores, especially in the wee hours of the morning when the violations take place," Galarpe said.

Inton earlier wrote Galarpe citing complaints from concerned barangay leaders and residents. He said the illegal practice of hundreds of gas station shops in Quezon City "has contributed to an increase in the incidence of drag racing on the city's major streets, because the drivers apparently converge in these gasoline stations to drink."

Inton said this has also led to an escalation in juvenile and petty crimes at night.

"Consequently, this practice has not only upset the peace and order conditions in our barangays but, worse, has eroded the security and peace of mind of our taxpaying residents," Inton told Galarpe.

He urged LLRB officials to conduct an immediate investigation of the reports "especially since most gas station shops are not licensed as mini-restaurants or cocktail lounges, and penalize those found violating the law."

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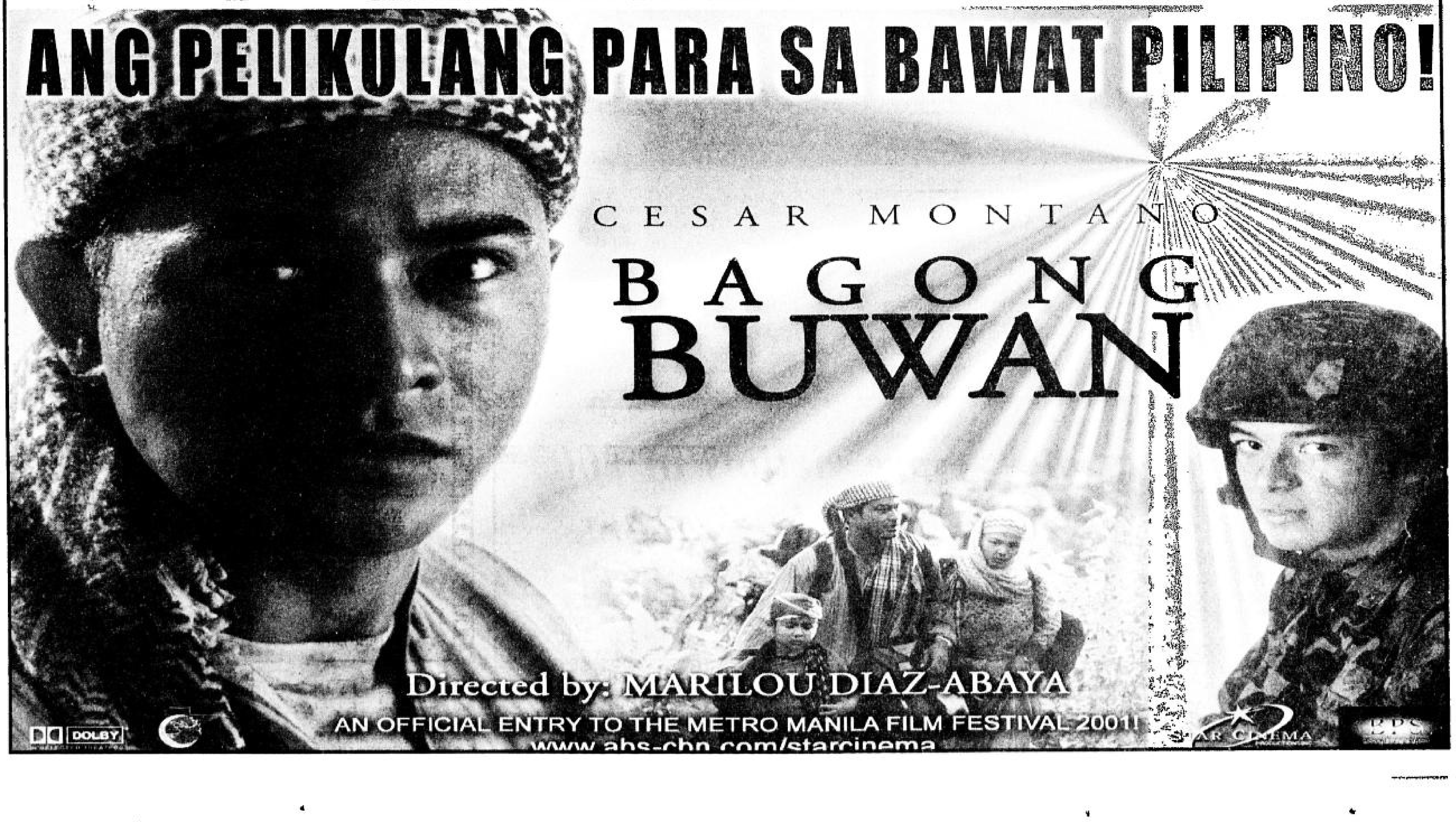

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4	YAMASHITA	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GLORIETTA 4

1	ON THE LINE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS THX	In DSD/SDDS/DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	GLASS HOUSE Art Film	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
5	BAGONG BUWAN	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DTS/SDDS DIGITAL SOUND
7	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND

GREENBELT

1	CHUNHYANG	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In SONY DYNAMIC DIGITAL SOUND
3	ON THE LINE	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
4	WEEKEND WITH POPS Onstage	

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2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DOLBY DIGITAL SOUND
3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
4	ON THE LINE	In DTS DIGITAL SOUND
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5 GOLD (DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
6 GOLD (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
7 GOLD (DOLBY)	BAGONG BUWAN
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1	
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A	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

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3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	BAHAY NI LOLA

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3	RESERVE
4	HUBOG
5	YAMASHITA
6	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
7 (DTS)	ON THE LINE
8 (SDDS)	GLASS HOUSE
9 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS

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4 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	YAMASHITA
6 (DOLBY)	HUBOG
7 (DTS)	ON THE LINE
8	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
9	LORD OF THE RINGS

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3	YAMASHITA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
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3 (DTS)	HUBOG
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3	YAMASHITA

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(Pasig) tel 641.1215

3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
SUPER CINERAMA
tel 733.4238

1 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	YAMASHITA
3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
4	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
5	BAHAY NI LOLA

New Divisoria Mall
DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
4	CLOSED
5	CLOSED
6	HUBOG

Baclaran LRT
LRT CINEMA
tel 512.0115

1 (DOLBY)	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
3	

Berma
tel 879.2029

1	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna)
tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS)	YAMASHITA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2 (DTS)	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DOLBY)	YAMASHITA
4	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2 (DOLBY)	YAMASHITA
3 (DTS)	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
4	BAGONG BUWAN

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	SOON TO OPEN
4	SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MovieTown
(Tarlac)

1	HUBOG
2	TATARIN
3 (DOLBY)	BAHAY NI LOLA
4 (DTS)	YAMASHITA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
3	YAMASHITA
4 (DTS)	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3 (DTS)	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
4	4 FATHERS
5	BAGONG BUWAN

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	4 FATHERS

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	TATARIN

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	TATARIN
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	YAMASHITA

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	4 FATHERS

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	BAGONG BUWAN
2 (DTS)	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	HUBOG
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	YAMASHITA
4	ROCKSTAR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4 (DTS ES)	BAHAY NI LOLA

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For reservations, call 751-0010 to 13

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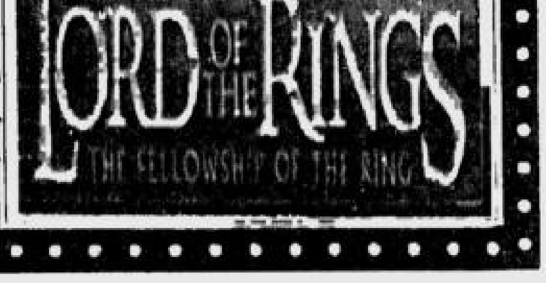

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1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	GLASS HOUSE
4	YAMASHITA
5	LORD OF THE RING
6	ON THE LINE
7	BATANG LANSANGAN
8	BAHAY NI LOLA
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

ERMITA 536-7809 TO 12

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	YAMASHITA
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	GLASS HOUSE
5	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
6	LORD OF THE RING
7	ON THE LINE

METRO EAST 632-9115-16 / 633-7641

1	HUBOG
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	LORD OF THE RING
4	YAMASHITA
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	BATANG LANSANGAN
7	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
8	BAHAY NI LOLA

NOVALICHES 936-3228 TO 31

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	LORD OF THE RING
3	ON THE LINE
4	YAMASHITA
5	BAHAY NI LOLA
6	BAGONG BUWAN
7	BATANG LANSANGAN
8	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

IMUS (046) 471-6108

1	LORD OF THE RING
2	BAGONG BUWAN
3	YAMASHITA
4	ON THE LINE
5	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
6	BATANG LANSANGAN

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 / 0458

1	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	BAHAY NI LOLA
4	THE SCORE
5	ROCKSTAR
6	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

ILOILO (033) 336-6077 / 6078

1	YAMASHITA
2	HUBOG
3	BAHAY NI LOLA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	TATARIN
6	SUMMER CATCH

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THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101

ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	YAMASHITA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	BAHAY NI LOLA
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	BAGONG BUWAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	HUBOG
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	ON THE LINE
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BRO. KAHIT SAANG ENGKWENTRO
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	LORD OF THE RINGS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION
NEW FRONTIER	CLOSED FOR RENOVATION

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	DOS EKIS / WILD SIDE
ODEON	LORD OF THE RINGS
ODEON-2	HUBOG
ROBEN	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	KNIGHT'S TAIL / THE BODY

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
REMAR	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
REMAR-2	HUBOG

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
B	BRO. KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
C	HUBOG

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	CLOSED
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BAHAY NI LOLA
CINEMA-2	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
CINEMA-3	MGA BATANG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	HARRY POTTER
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-6	HUBOG
CINEMA-7	SUMMER CATCH
CINEMA-8	TATARIN
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-12	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-14	BAGONG BUWAN
CINEMA-15	YAMASHITA

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	ON THE LINE
CINEMA-2	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-3	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-4	THE LORD OF THE RINGS
CINEMA-5	THE GLASS HOUSE
CINEMA-6	THE LORD OF THE RINGS

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PIÑAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID

'Proof' opening night sponsor

BAYO sponsors the opening night performance of Atlantis Productions' "Proof," Jan. 9 at the GSIS Theater.

Lea Salonga, the lead star of "Proof," is the image model of Bayo, a boutique that carries clothes characterized as basic, classic and casual chic.

Also in the cast of "Proof" are Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Joel Trinidad and Michael de Mesa. Bobby Garcia directs. The play runs until Jan. 27.

For more information, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078.

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1	BATANG LANSANGAN
2	ON THE LINE
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	YAMASHITA
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	HUBOG
8	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO

SM CENTERPOINT
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1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2	HUBOG
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
5	LORD OF THE RINGS
6	BATANG LANSANGAN
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	ON THE LINE
9	YAMASHITA
10	TATARIN

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	HUBOG
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	LORD OF THE RINGS
5	YAMASHITA
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	HARRY POTTER
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	TATARIN
11	ON THE LINE
12	BATANG LANSANGAN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	ON THE LINE
5	YAMASHITA
6	LORD OF THE RINGS
7	HUBOG
8	BATANG LANSANGAN
9	LORD OF THE RINGS
10	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
11	TATARIN
12	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	ON THE LINE
5	YAMASHITA
6	TATARIN
7	HUBOG
8	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
9	BAGONG BUWAN
10	LORD OF THE RINGS
11	BATANG LANSANGAN
12	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM TUTUBAN
2514302

1	LORD OF THE RINGS
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	BATANG LANSANGAN

DIGITAL dts SOUND DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND EX

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1	BAHAY NI LOLA
2	GLASS HOUSE
3	BAGONG BUWAN
4	YAMASHITA
5	ON THE LINE
6	BAGONG BUWAN
7	LORD OF THE RINGS
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
10	HUBOG
11	BATANG LANSANGAN
12	TATARIN

SM SOUTHMALL
8066088 • 8066782

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	ON THE LINE
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	BAHAY NI LOLA
5	TATARIN
6	HUBOG
7	BAGONG BUWAN
8	LORD OF THE RINGS
9	YAMASHITA
10	BATANG LANSANGAN

SM GUADALUPE COMM'L
8820905

1	KAHIT SAAN ENGKWENTRO
2	TATARIN
3	LORD OF THE RINGS

SM CEBU
2313876

1	SUMMER CATCH
2	MUSKETEER
3	BAHAY NI LOLA
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	ON THE LINE
6	HUBOG
7	4 FATHERS

SM ILOILO
3209422

1	HUBOG
2	CLOSED
3	SUMMER CATCH
4	YAMASHITA
5	BAGONG BUWAN
6	BAHAY NI LOLA
7	CLOSED
8	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW

SM PAMPANGA
7128015

1	ON THE LINE
2	YAMASHITA
3	TATARIN
4	BATANG LANSANGAN
5	HUBOG
6	BAHAY NI LOLA

SM SUCAT
8294975

1	BAGONG BUWAN
2	ON THE LINE
3	LORD OF THE RINGS
4	YAMASHITA

SM DAVAO

1	YAMASHITA
2	BAHAY NI LOLA
3	ON THE LINE
4	BAGONG BUWAN
5	OTHER SIDE OF THE LAW
6	SUMMER CATCH

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Who do you love among the MTV Asia Awards 2002 nominees?
Text in your votes now.
Check out the list of categories and nominees on the opposite page.
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In cooperation with:

Pinoy skaters hit the big time in Disney road show

By Marinel R. Cruz

IT WAS in 1995 when Filipino figure skater Leonardo "Nardie" Aranton first appeared in Tichung, Taiwan, in the global hit production "Disney on Ice."

Five years later, two young Pinoy ice skaters hogged the limelight anew when they performed for Disney in the production "100 Years of Disney Magic," this time, on Philippine soil.

Though Joey Daysog and Annie Ramos have been performing in various "Disney on Ice" productions, it is their first time to mount the ice show at the Araneta Coliseum, for a 16-day run which started Dec. 22 and ends today. The production is produced by Feld Entertainment.

Joey, 25, said he first performed for Feld Entertainment in 1992, in a "Beauty and the Beast" show in Florida.

"I was one of the many chorus skaters at that time," Joey told the Inquirer. "It was a very new experience for me because I was never in such a large production and had never been on the road before."

Today, after nine years, he is featured in a segment called "It's a Small World," wherein he and Annie get to wear local costumes representing the country.

"For me, wearing the costume is just showing who I am and where I came from," he said.

Joey's parents met in in Clark Air Base, Pampanga, where his soldier father had been assigned some years back.

Joey wanted to wear a *barong tagalog* in the show but for some reason, the costume designers were not able to make one.

"They probably couldn't put enough sequins on, I don't know," he said. But he added that when people get to see his present costume, "you'll think (that I'm) in a little fiesta."

In a *doña* outfit

Annie describes her costume as very elaborate. "It's also very traditional," she beamed. "You can automatically identify me through the costume as truly Filipino."

"She's *Doña* Annie," Joey teased.

Annie, 23, first joined Feld Entertainment in 1997. She played Nakoma, Pocahontas' best friend in the production "The Spirit of Pocahontas."

"The experience felt so incredible for me because I was young and have never been a part of something so big," Annie said. "My mom flew all the way down from Alaska, where she's based, to see my first show."

Memories of that first performance are still fresh on Annie's mind. The lights, she said, were blinding and hundreds of people were seated around the rink.

"It was such an overwhelming feeling," Annie said. "I still feel it whenever a curtain opens up and I run out on the ice in my costume and see all the people watching."

It was Annie's ice skater mother who first introduced her to the sport when she was three years old. The Norwegian-Filipino skater did not quite take to it at first, but after watching an ice show when she was seven, Annie changed her mind.

"I said to myself: this is what I want to do," she said. "And I've been doing it ever since."

Accident

Joey broke his ankle when he was 22. He had two plates and seven pins inserted into his ankle and gained about 40 pounds while he was in a cast.

JOEY Daysog in a "Pocahontas" number.

ANNIE Ramos as "Mulan."

"I was just skating, trying a new trick and was just not thinking," he said of the accident. "I was in a cast for nine months."

Though it had been a difficult time for him, it was still his love for the sport that prevailed.

"You just have to go back to it," Joey said. "Even to this day, when I do a certain jump, in the back of my head I think I might hurt myself again. But really, you just have to find a way to do it."

For Annie and Joey, bruises, falls and injuries are but normal occurrences in a skater's life.

"You start slowly then gradually build endurance, strength and tolerance," they said. "The next thing you know, you're spinning so fast or jumping so high that you amaze even yourself."

So, their advice to skating tyros is, to "just listen to yourself and to your body, and you won't go wrong."

'From Mickey to Mulan'

Annie and Joey also play other characters in the show.

"My first number is with the Pinocchio segment," Joey said.

He then gets to be a part of the "Beauty and the Beast" scene, becoming a "mouseketeer" and pirate afterward.

Annie, meanwhile, does a lot of the "mouseketeer" numbers in the show and plays the lead character in the "Mulan" scene.

"100 Years of Disney Magic," Joey said, is a variety show where viewers are treated to a hundred years of Disney history "from Mickey Mouse all the way to Mulan."

The show has such favorite Disney features as Pinocchio, Toy Story, Beauty and the Beast, Aladdin, The Mouseketeers, It's a Small World, and for the very first time, Mulan, A Bug's Life, and The Lion King.

Legrand to hold two-night Valentine concert at PICC

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

THE CONCERT scene this coming Valentine season is in for a big surprise when multi-Grammy winner, pianist and composer **Michel Legrand** holds a two-night performance, Feb. 14 and 15 at the PICC.

The concert will be mounted by Maxi-Media International, which had been negotiating for years with Legrand to perform in Manila.

The 69-year-old French-born songwriter has charted countless memorable movie themes and classic romantic tunes in his career which spans four decades.

Legrand kicked off his movie career in 1964 when he did the musical score of the French classic, "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg." But it wasn't until 1967 when he snatched his first Oscar for "The Windmills of Your Mind," the theme of "The Thomas Crown Affair," which starred **Steve McQueen** and **Faye Dunaway**.

He went on to haul a couple of more Oscars and Grammys with "What Are You Doing for the Rest of Your Life" from "Happy Ending," "The Summer of '42" from the movie of the same title and the theme from "Brian's Song."

Legrand is best remembered for the hit song, "How Do You Keep the Music Playing?," recorded by **James Ingram** and **Patti Austin** for the 1982 hit movie, "Best Friends."

He also did the soundtrack of **Barbra Streisand**'s musical film, "Yentl," which won the Oscar best original score in 1983. Two of the tunes from the musical were nominated in the best song category—"Papa Can You Hear Me" and "The Way He Makes Me Feel."

Legrand's Manila performance is surely a much-awaited event for music lovers. For reservations, call the Maxi-Media ticketing at 551-8999.

Triple victory

CHITO Roño's "Yamashita: The Tiger's Treasure" may have bagged the best picture plum in the Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), but when you ask Regal Films matriarch **Lily Monteverde** if she will produce another epic story of similar proportions, the answer is a resounding "No."

"'Yamashita' is a once-in-a-lifetime movie and experience. It was tough doing it, but it was worth it," Mother Lily says.

"Yamashita" was filmed with a whopping budget of P80 million. It was produced by Regal's sister outfit, MaQ Films. The movie stars veteran actor **Armando Goyena**, with **Danilo Barrios, Albert Martinez** and **Rustom Padilla** among others.

The MMFF concluded last Jan. 3, but the three entries from Regal—"Bahay ni Lola," "Yamashita" and "Hubog"—are on an extended run for another week.

Regal scored an admirable feat during the filmfest. Aside from having three official entries, Regal romped off with the topgrosser ("Bahay ni Lola") and best picture winner ("Yamashita").

"Bahay ni Lola," which stars **Aiza Seguerra, Gina Alajar, Manilyn Reynes** and **Gloria Romero**, directed by **Uro de la Cruz**, is the top moneymaker and the only GP (for general patronage) entry in the filmfest.

"Hubog," directed by **Joel Lamangan** and topbilled by **Assunta** and **Alessandra de Rossi, Wendell Ramos** and **Jay Manalo**, is a relevant bold drama which also proved box-office power.

The third best picture winner, "Hubog" makes filmfest history by giving the De Rossi sisters the best actress (Assunta) and best supporting actress (Alessandra) trophies.

Mother Lily offered the moviegoing public a triple treat for the filmfest and in turn, she was rewarded with a triple victory.

During Regal's victory blowout on New Year's day at the residence of Mother Lily in Greenhills, *direk* Uro said in jest, "Next year, we will have a sequel to 'Bahay ni Lola.' It will be a bold movie, 'Casa ni Lola.'" And everyone had a good laugh.

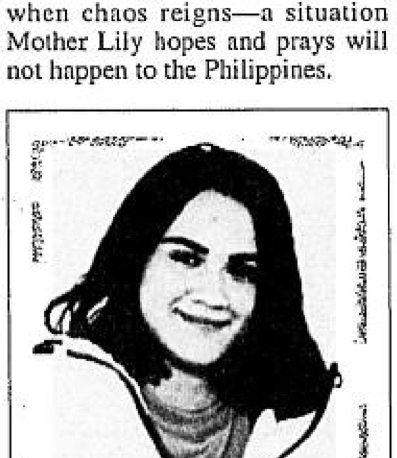
Mother Lily is full of goodwill these days, thanking everyone who had a hand in the success of the three films, especially the moviegoing public.

She wishes the other producers well in 2002, saying it is high time they all unite in elevating the quality of local movies and fighting piracy, which is eating up as much as 30 percent of the earnings of films nationwide.

Mother Lily also appeals to the government to support the movie industry, which is paying millions of pesos annually in taxes and giving employment to thousands of people.

Up next for Regal is the **Lav Diaz** masterpiece, "Hesus Rebolusyonaryo," which topbills **Mark Anthony Fernandez**. It takes a look at the country 10 years from now, when chaos reigns—a situation Mother Lily hopes and prays will not happen to the Philippines.

ALESSANDRA de Rossi and Jay Manalo in a scene in "Hubog."



CRAWFORD

Billy Joe hits it big in the US

FORMER child actor Billy Joe Crawford won the lead role in the upcoming prequel to "The Exorcist," which will start filming this year and to be shown next summer in the United States.

The 19-year-old Billy Joe, who is now based in New York, auditioned for the role, according to an insider of Warner Bros. Philippines.

He will share stellar billing with Liam Neeson.

Billy Joe started his career in German Moreno's "That's Entertainment." In the mid-'90s, he moved to the US and recorded an album there, released in the Philippines by BMG Records Pilipinas. *LS*

Last year's best, flaws and all

(From page A25)

He's the breadwinner among a family of boxers, a puppy dog suitor, a loyal *kabarkada* and an unlikely best pal to a little girl. If it sounds like a formula movie, it is. Still, everything feels real—thanks to the unforced writing and performances, and to director Joyce Bernal's documentary-style approach and the just-there-in-the-background loveliness of Baguio. And to Rivermaya's powerful "Alab Ng Puso," the year's best theme song you wrongfully ignored.'Bagong Buwan'

What it lacks in authentic Muslim representation, it makes up for with heart.

As the first film to tackle the Mindanao conflict head-on, Marilou Diaz-Abaya's big-budget Metro Manila Film Festival entry contains plenty of details to gripe about: Does anyone really go to battle in a *malong*? Must the characters mouth off those long speeches? And, most crucially, are the issues objectively articulated?

Yet, even then, the drama leaps from the screen with a vivid urgency, like an ambush attack. A flawed but important effort.

Being truly child-friendly on TV, 2

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

IF our TV channels want to be truly child-friendly, here are other improvements they can effect:

A change in attitude: Due to inadequate values training for TV production personnel, some of them don't have a clear notion of stylistic and content limitations due to telecast time.

Thus, material that's proper for late-night hours is sometimes telecast during the day, when many minors are watching who are unprepared to cope with the adult material being shown.

Production personnel have to be told what program material young viewers can comfortably assimilate, and to relegate other stuff to the late-night hours. This is not to water down TV programming, just to assign adult material to the hours when adults comprise the great majority of the viewing audience.

The rule is: protect children from material that they are too young to adequately handle. And: adults can take care of themselves, so they should be able to make up their own minds about the programs they want to expose themselves to.

Incidentally, this is also the policy for film classification. But TV classification is more difficult because television is an "open" medium that enters people's homes, while films are shown in theaters that can bar the entry of viewers deemed too young for the adult material that is being screened.

So, TV classification according to audience maturity has to be done not by the state, as in film classification, but by TV channel's programming heads. If these TV bosses genuinely have young viewers' welfare at heart, no problem. If they don't care about anything except high ratings, *big* problem!

The fact that parents and educators are bewailing the racy stuff on TV these days indicates that our TV bosses *aren't* being as responsible and genuinely child-friendly as they should be. So, parents and educators have to step in to remind them of their "classifier" role.

If the TV bosses don't mend their ways, the state may have to enter the picture and act more decisively to penalize them, by suspending or revoking their stations' license to operate, which the state gives our TV networks only after they have pledged to be responsible programmers. And, in all matters related to responsible TV programming, the most important consideration is the welfare of young viewers.

So, our TV channels will just have to clean up their act—or else, the state will do it for them.

Other changes: TV writers, directors and program hosts have to get better training in determining what are the no-no's for young viewers. Many times, these TV personnel are too *pa-kwela* for minors' good.

On-camera talents engage in salacious talk that is sexist or demeaning, just to get a cheap laugh. Clearly, they have to get a better understanding of the negative effects on young viewers of their on-screen behavior.

Bet you didn't know that . . .

. . . **Johnny Depp** was suspended from high school for mooning a teacher.

Joaquin Phoenix became a vegetarian when, as a child, while traveling with his family, he witnessed thousands of fish being slammed to death against a boat hull.

Edward Norton speaks fluent Japanese.

Mira Sorvino speaks Mandarin Chinese.

Luke Perry was voted Biggest Flirt in high school.

Robin Givens says she lost her virginity to **Eddie Murphy**, with whom she never reached orgasm.

Contrary to popular belief, **Robert De Niro** is predominantly Irish, not Italian, in ancestry.

Samuel L. Jackson completed drug rehab two weeks before playing a drug addict in "Jungle Fever."

Leelee Sobieski collects locks of hair from her co-stars.

John Travolta owns a Boeing 707.

Patrick Swayze is a former Roman Catholic, Baptist, Buddhist and Scientologist (in that order)!

When she's wearing a corset, **Nicole Kidman** has a 19-inch waist.

At the 20th anniversary special for The Comedy Store, **Jim Carrey** wore nothing but a strategically-placed sock.

Before they became stars, 2

SEAN Connery once polished coffins for a living.

Ray Liotta worked in a cemetery while he was in college.

Gabriel Byrne once worked as a teddy bear eye installer.

Andie MacDowell worked at both McDonald's and Pizza Hut when she was a teenager.

Steve Buscemi supported himself as a New York fireman while he did local theater.

Jack Nicholson worked as an office boy for MGM's cartoon department.

When they were children, **River**, **Joaquin**, **Summer** and **Rain Phoenix** begged for spare change on the streets of LA and Venezuela.

As a child, **Angus MacFadyen** worked in the circus as a clown.

As a younger woman, **Gilian Anderson** sometimes sang backup in her boyfriend's punk band, wearing nothing but bandages.

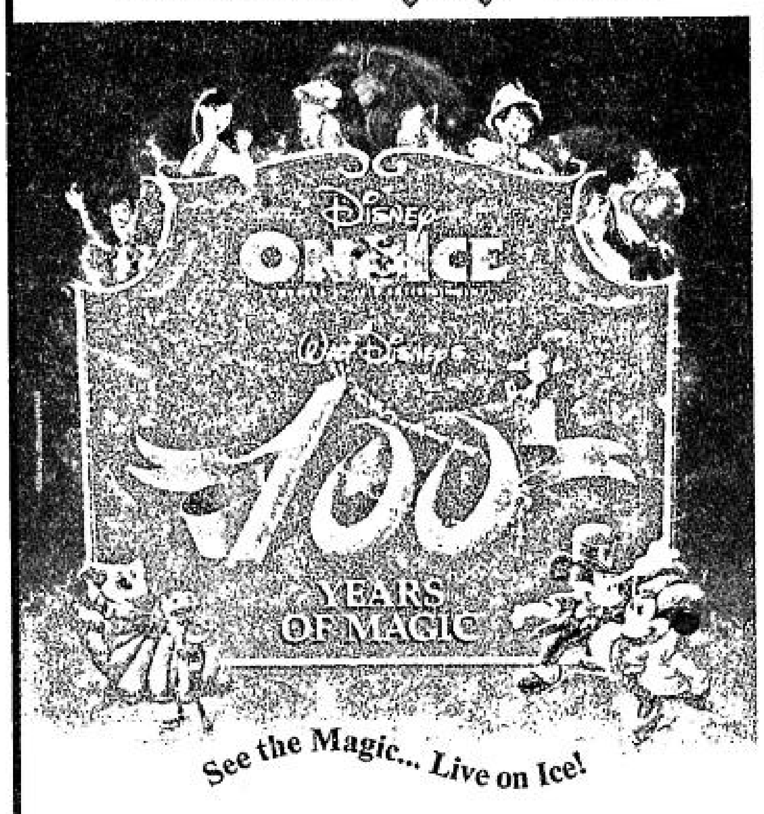
Greta Scacchi once worked as a ranch cowgirl in Australia.

Cuba Gooding Jr. was one of the breakdancers in the finale of the 1948 Olympics in Los Angeles.

Sarah Polley dropped out of high school to become an activist for socialism.

Treat Williams worked as a professional pilot in the '80s.

As a boy, **Paul Newman** ran his family's sporting goods store in Cleveland, Ohio.



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- Manila Standard - (12 /28/ 2001)

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- Diether Ocampo -

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- German Moreno -

"It's amazing show, I'd love to see it again and again and again!"
- Vina Morales -

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- Nestor Torre - P.D.I.(Dec. 29, 2001)-

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Produced by VINCENT R. NEBRIDA • STEVE MAX GRENYO Executive Producers CHARO SANTOS-CONCIO • KEVIN J. FOXE
Produced by TONY I. GLORIA Written by VINCENT R. NEBRIDA
Directed by LAURICE GUILLEN

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MTV Asia Awards 2002
Categories & Nominees

FAVORITE MUSIC ARTIST- Philippines
(Keyword: MUSICARTIST)
A - Freestyle
B - Gary Valenciano
C - Lea Salonga
D - Martin Nievera
E - Regine Velasquez

FAVORITE MALE ARTIST
(Keyword:MALEARTIST)
A - Eminem
B - Ricky Martin
C - Robbie Willams
D - Ronan Keating
E - Shaggy

FAVORITE FEMALE ARTIST
(Keyword: FEMALEARTIST)
A - Britney Spears
B - Christina Aguilera
C - Jennifer Lopez
D - Madonna
E - Mariah Carey

FAVORITE POP ACT
(Keyword: POPACT)
A - Backstreet Boys
B - Destiny's Child
C - M2M
D - N'Sync
E - Westlife

FAVORITE ROCK ACT
(Keyword: ROCKACT)
A - Bon Jovi
B - Coldplay
C - Limp Bizkit
D - Linkin Park
E - U2

FAVORITE VIDEO
(Keyword: VIDEO)
A - The Call (Backstreet Boys)
B - Weapon of Choice (Fatboy Slim)
C - 19-2000 (Gorillaz)
D - POP (N'Sync)
E - Lady Marmalade (Pink, Christina Aguilera, Mya, Lil' Kim)

FAVORITE BREAKTHROUGH ARTIST (Keyword: BREAKTHROUGH)
A - Coldplay
B - Gorillaz
C - Nelly Furtado
D - Alicia Keys
E - Linkin Park

FAVORITE FILM
(Keyword: FILM)
A - Charlie's Angels
B - Crouching Tiger,Hidden Dragon
C - Rush Hour 2
D - Pearl Harbor
E - Shrek
F - The Mummy Returns

FAVORITE FASHION DESIGNER
(Keyword: FASHION)
A - Donatella Versace (Versace)
B - John Galliano (Christian Dior)
C - Marc Jacobs (Louis Vuitton/ Marc Jacobs)
D - Miuccia Prada (Prada/Miu Miu)
E - Stella McCartney
F - Tom Ford (Gucci/ YSL)

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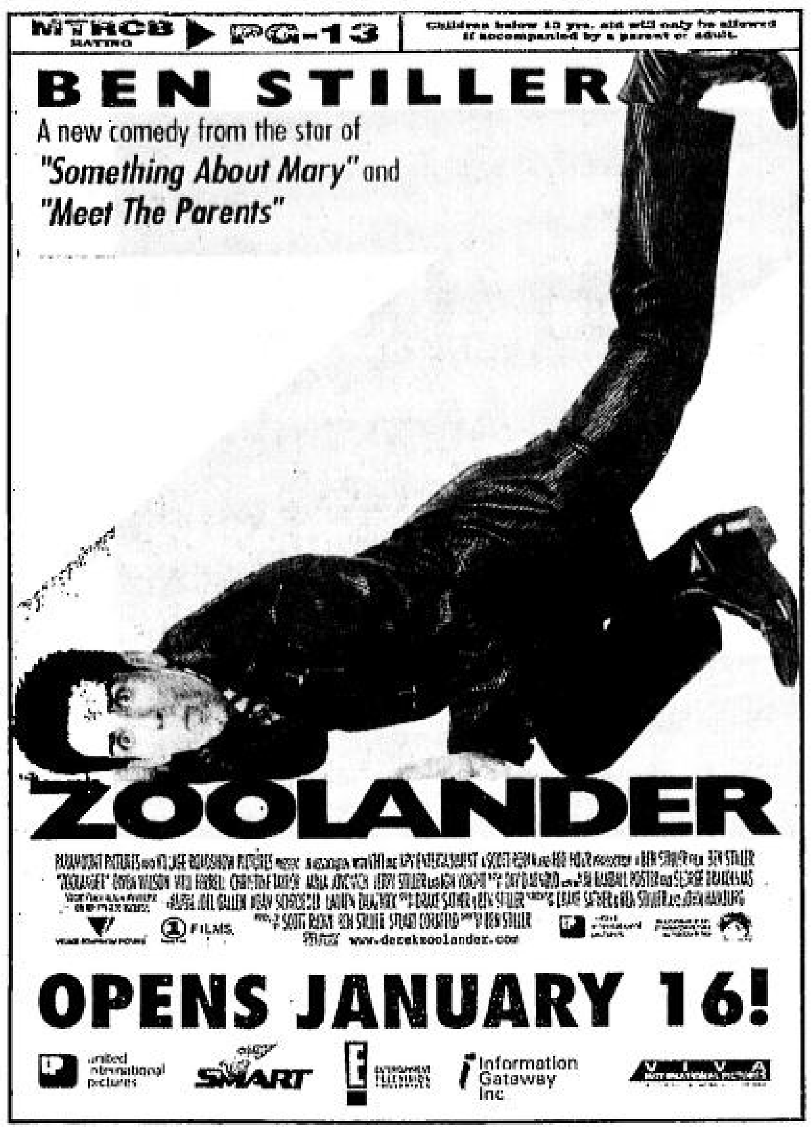

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LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 10:20, 1:50, 5:20, 8:50	GLASS HOUSE - P 13 12:25, 2:40, 4:55, 7:10, 9:30	LORD OF THE RINGS - GP 11:50, 3:20, 6:50, 10:20

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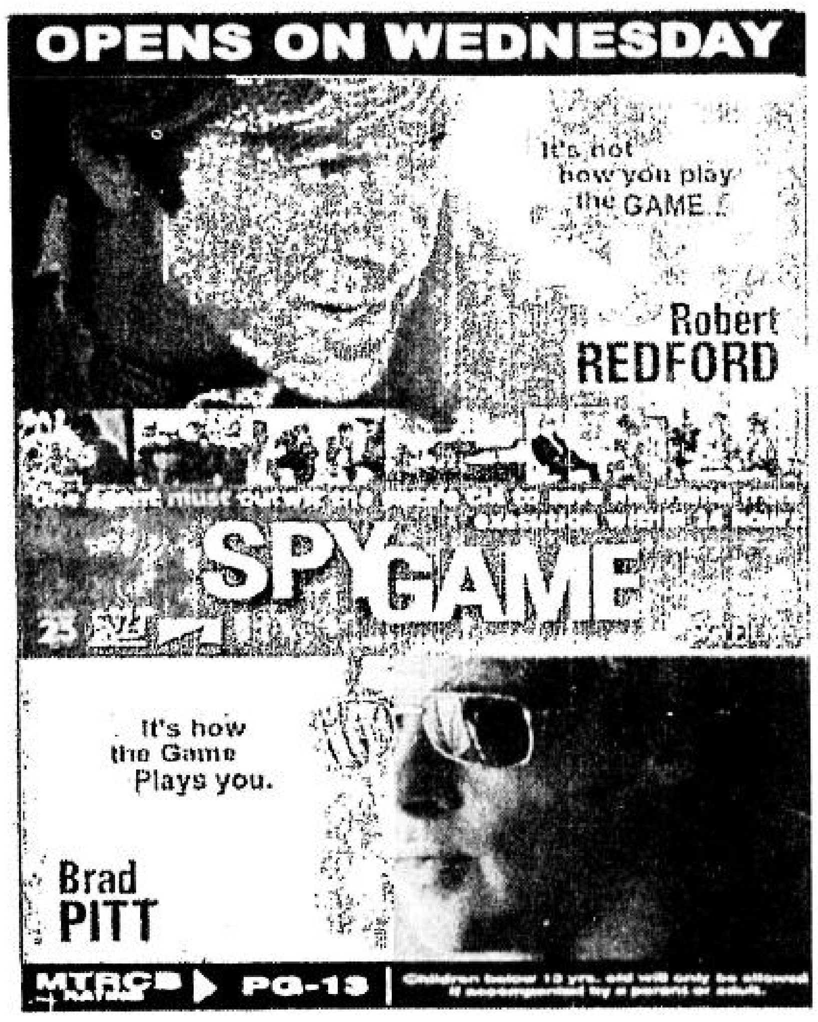

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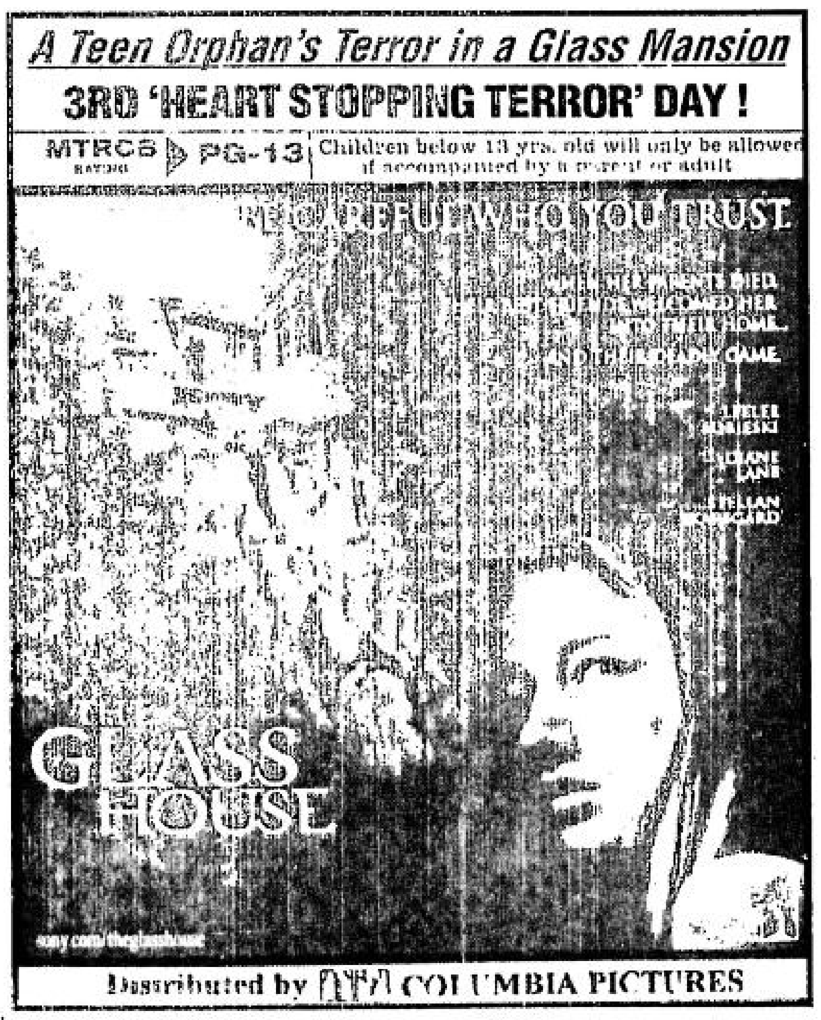

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ENTERTAINMENT

LOUIE C. CAMINO, Editor

Last year's best, flaws and all

BY PAUL DAZA AND
JADE FRANCIS CASTRO

LAST year was a year of châos for an already confused and fragile local movie industry. A new Philippine president meant a new chair for the Movie and Television, Review and Classification Board (MTRCB).

First in line under the Macapagal presidency was the respected Dr. Nicanor Tiongson, who resigned after only several weeks in office because of the controversy generated by Jose Javier Reyes' frank depiction of Manila's sex workers, "Live Show." Replacing Tiongson as MTRCB chair was the more conservative Alejandro Roces, whose most controversial stand to date has been his decision to defend the public showing of another sexy film, "Red Diaries."

The office of the Philippine National Police had requested that "Red Diaries" be withdrawn for its unflattering depiction of our country's policemen, but the MTRCB stood its ground. This principled stand endeared Roces to the industry, but probably didn't earn him fans at the PNP.

Despite this, there has been a noticeable drop in the number of bold films produced since Roces took over as MTRCB chair. Seiko Films has been unusually quiet, its only release being a no-buzz film called "Patikim," which was shown last November.

Are producers shying away from the bold genre because they are feeling their way around the new MTRCB, or is it simply because the genre is only profitable if you are a video pirate?

Whatever the reason, producers trimmed their budgets and lessened the number of movies they made in 2001. And yet, despite the pervasive gloom and doom, there was some good news. Star Cinema had huge hits in "Bakit Di Totohanin" and "Trip," while Viva scored homeruns with "Pangako Ikaw Lang" and "Radyo."

Regal triumphed with "Red Diaries" and the Metro Manila Film Festival entry, "Bahay ni Lola."

Smaller production outfits did little to stir national attention, and, despite abundant output from independent filmmakers, 2001 was not yet the year of digital movies.

With lack of commercial distribution, the new medium will have to wait for its grand arrival sometime in the future.

Below, in no particular order, are the Filipino films we really enjoyed last year.

'Batang West Side'

Who makes a five-hour film in the US about no less than the death of the Filipino dream?

Lav Diaz, that's who, and thank God the director is as sensitive as he is bold, rendering his Palanca-winning screenplay—about the investigation of a murdered Filipino teen in New Jersey—with truthful abandon and painterly grace.

Yes, it's melancholic; sure it's heavy (Shabu! Martial Law! The plight of Filipino immigrants!), but no other Filipino film in 2001 resonated with more relevance or glowed with as much beauty. A commercial release is unlikely, given its profit-defying length, so while theater owners could well dodge the money problem, the public may lose the chance to see a homemade masterpiece.

'Pangako, Ikaw Lang'

Aga Muhlach's second pairing with Regine Velasquez under Joyce Bernal's direction is a lovely, breezy confection buoyed by dewy locations and an intoxicating soundtrack, with songs by Ogie Alcasid and Moy Ortiz.

Among all of last year's local movies, this one simply had the best vibes. The script by Mel Mendoza del Rosario was clearly inspired by feel-good Hollywood love flicks like "While You Were Sleeping" and "You've Got Mail," but it never felt like a copy of them. That's something we can't say about 95 percent of local movies.

"Pangako" was that rare blockbuster that actually deserved its success.

'Tuhog'

Gawad Urian's best picture of 2000 got its commercial release in 2001, so audiences could finally line up for Jeffrey Jeturian's once-X-rated comedy that cleverly intercuts two stories: an incestuous rape of a Laguna lass (Ina Raymundo) and the sensational "movie version" of the same tragedy.

The film's genius? It indicts the sex-peddling movie industry even as it plays by the rules of "bomba." It also goes down in history as only the third Filipino film selected for competition at the prestigious Venice Film Festival—after Manuel Conde's "Genghis Khan" and Mike De Leon's "Sister Stella L."

'La Vida Rosa'

Screenwriter Armando Lao is a blessing we have yet to thank the heavens for. His most recent opus zigzags through a detailed, so-real-you-can-smell-the-rot crime world Erik Matti couldn't even dream of, cooks up a complex roller coaster romance, and splatters a generous heap of Chabacano dialogue.

Director Chino Roño and his cast (led by Rosanna Roces and Diether Ocampo) do his material great service, turning "La Vida Rosa" into a fascinating, enigmatic thrill ride.

'Luv Txt'

Directed by Rowell Santiago and starring Judy Ann Santos and Wowie de Guzman, "Luv Txt" was an ambitious, heartfelt romantic comedy which lovingly recreated the look of Manila in the 1950s. A cross between "Somewhere in Time" and "Back to the Future," "Luv Txt" is less about cell phone technology than it is a moving paean to love that transcends time and death. Why this movie didn't attract a bigger audience, we'll never know, but it certainly deserves to be seen by more moviegoers.

'Radyo'

Local film geeks were so dazzled by Yam Laranas' striking lighting and experimental camerawork that they glossed over Radyo's thin script and clunky characterizations (especially of the policemen). So good is "Radyo's" cinematography that it even steals some of the limelight from gifted performers Rufa Mae Quinto and Jeffrey Quizon.

"Radyo" is a hopeful sign that the local movie industry can in fact deliver a low-budget film which relies more on visual flair rather than on the appeal of costly superstars and talky, contrived dialogue. Any movie that can reinvigorate one's faith in the local movie industry should be saluted, and we're hoping that Laranas' best work is yet to come. He is the most exciting new director in local cinema.

'Booba'

The scrappy production values only add to its charm. Rufa Mae Quinto is a clueless provinciana bombshell who unwittingly becomes a top-secret spy, while Ai-Ai de las Alas is her sister and archrival, the head of an underworld syndicate. Deservedly, the two femmes' comic appeal has skyrocketed since this baby was dropped—the best proof that casual B-movie farce can also be smart and challenging. (Calling Andrew E.)

There's something empowering about a virginal vixen one-upping her oglers, scoring on her gentlemanly crush, and kicking villain ass, without once compromising her personality.

Is it a triumph of feminism? We can debate on it. Did it deliver the year's most satisfying laughs? No argument there.

'Buhay Kamao'

Robin Padilla's least celebrated flick may just be the most heartfelt.

LAST/ A22

BEST VIBES. The Aga Muhlach-Regine Velasquez screen reunion in "Pangako Ikaw Lang."

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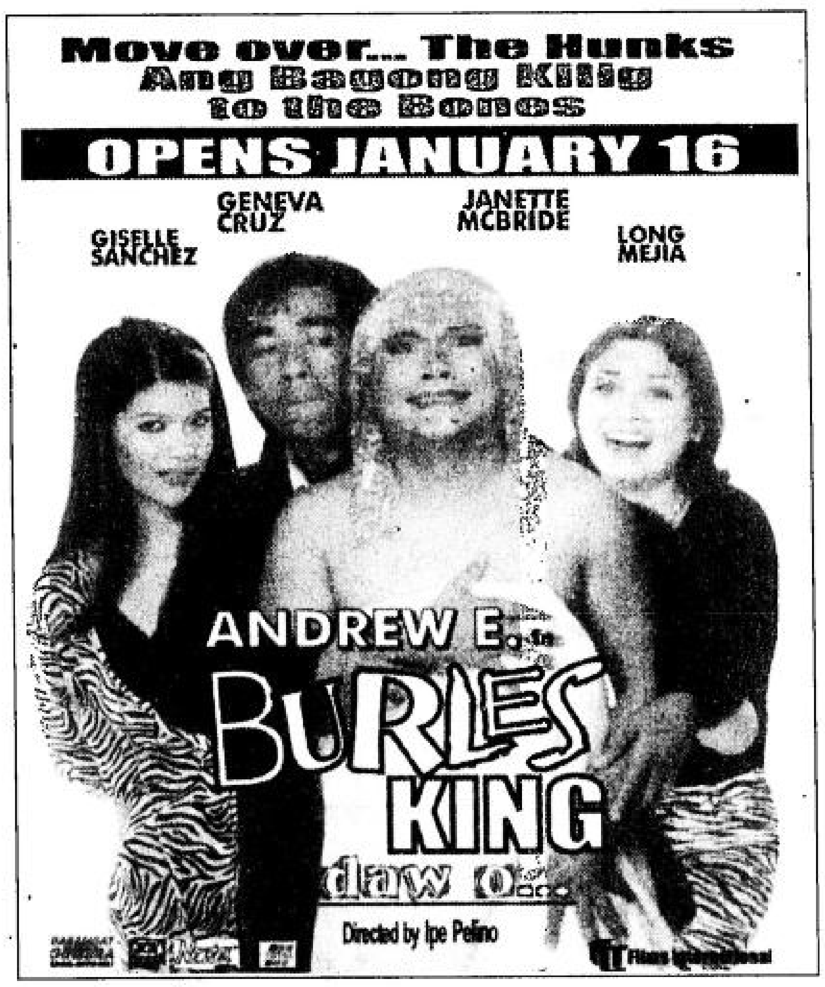

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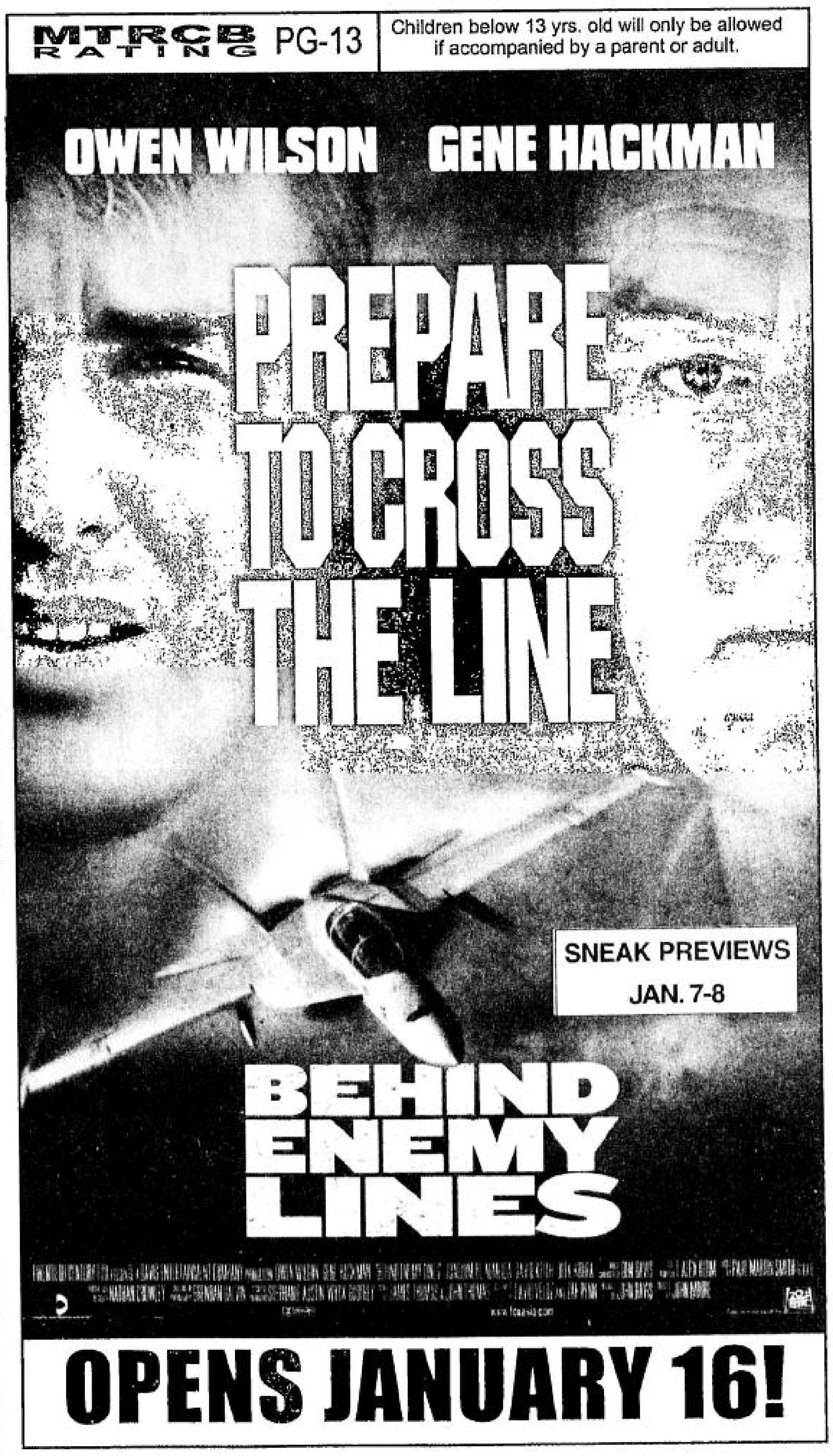
CHUNHYANG
"A landmark film that is the 1st Korean picture to receive regular theatrical release in the U.S., calling attention not only to the world-class talent of Im, but also serving as an introduction to the rich, complex Korean cinema."
-Kevin Thomas,
LOS ANGELES TIMES
An official selection of this year's Telluride, Toronto and New York Film Festivals. Im Kwon Taek's CHUNHYANG, Korea's largest cinematic production ever. A four month shoot employing over 8,000 extras and some 12,000 costumesmade its world premiere in the main competition of the Cannes Film Festival 2000.
This epic tale of forbidden passion, devotion and the glorious triumph of love in adversity is set in 18th Century Korea and begins as Mongryong, the privileged son of the Governor of Namwon, falls in love with Chunhyang, the beautiful daughter of a proud former courtesan. Soon after they are married in secret, Mongryong is ordered to Seoul to finish his education. He leaves reluctantly and promises that once he finishes his schooling he will send for his beloved. But time passes, and a new, vindictive Governor is appointed in the province where Chunhyang lives. This new Governor pursues Chunhyang and when she refuses his advances, she is imprisoned and sentenced to death. Chunhyang's only hope for being saved is her faith in the promise Mongryong once made to her.



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Sunday BIZ

RAUL O. MARCELO, Editor · MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO, Business Features Editor

From earning ₱1 a day to food chain president

BY TINA ARCEO-DUMLAO

PLARIDEL, Bulacan native Rufino L. dela Rosa, proud son of a farmer and a homemaker, used to go to the Philippine College of Commerce lugging a big bag full of his books, notebooks and his supply of different kinds of paper.

Commerce students like him used a lot of paper in school, so he saw the opportunity to earn something extra out of selling these to his classmates. He needed the money to supplement his P2 a day allowance from his government scholarship.

The teenage BSC Business Management student had a good business going out of selling paper, earning for himself P1 a day in the late 1960s, that he dropped his other part time job as a messenger with a Binondo-based company.

FIRST JOB

"I believe that I must have gotten my love of dealing with customers from my experience selling paper to my classmates," says dela Rosa, 52, who would move on to become chief executive officer of Greenwich Pizza Corp. and Chowking Food Corp.

An extra P1 a day may not sound like much today but it was more than enough to pay for his fare which cost only 10 centavos at that time, and a decent meal which cost about 50 centavos for a bowl of rice and one viand. The exchange rate at that time was only P3.85 to a US dollar.

RAFFY dela Rosa working at National Semiconductors in 1983.

Dela Rosa, however, was destined for more than just selling paper.

Accounting clerk

As soon as he passed the board exams for Certified Public Accountants in 1971, his professor, Ricardo Lirio convinced him to work in FNCB Finance Inc. —a financing subsidiary of Citibank— where he was managing director.

Lirio is now a managing director of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

He was hired as an accounting clerk in 1971 for P245 a month, a little above the minimum wage at the time of P8 a day or about P200 a month.

"I worked in the Makati office at first but because I got involved in the union they promoted me to operations manager and I was assigned in Bacolod City. I stayed there for four years and another two years in Cagayan de Oro. Being a *probinsiyano* myself, I liked working in the provinces," Dela Rosa tells the SundayBiz.

He recalls setting aside a third of his first paycheck to cover his expenses until his next salary, and giving the rest (about P160) to his mother in Plaridel.

"The P160 I gave my mother was a lot of money in the farm where I grew up. I remember that a pig was worth P40 at that time, so in effect I gave my mother four pigs!" dela Rosa says.

What he kept for himself he spent for food, which was 50 centavos at the office canteen, and for the occasional date with his girlfriend Elvira, whom he eventually married.

"I remember spending P2 for a date. That was enough for two ham and egg sandwiches. I did not spend for fare during our dates because we would just walk from C.M. Recto to the Cinerama in Quiapo," he adds.

He also invested part of his succeeding salaries in the leading fashion at that time—double-knit flare pants, Banlon shirts and very wide neckties. He matched these with a nice Beatles-inspired haircut.

Moving on

Dela Rosa stayed with FNCB Finance for six years and then worked for a number of companies before moving on to the National Semiconductors, an American company that produced computer chips, as finance director.

He was happy with National Semiconductors but his stay was cut short by the company's decision to ship out of the Philippines in 1987 following the series of coup d' etats against the fledgling Aquino administration.

National Semiconductors gave key employees the opportunity to transfer to the other offices such as in Singapore but Dela Rosa declined, saying that he did not want to work abroad.

Dela Rosa instead used the generous separation pay to put up his own company. He and his wife bought several trucks and started their gravel and sand and hollow blocks business in Plaridel, where he also took up farming again.

"I am a 100 percent *probinsiyano* and I will remain a *probinsiyano*. I grew up in a farm, I know how to ride a carabao, raise cattle and catch fish. This is the reason why I cannot detach myself from the farm," he says.

It was during one of those days at the farm when Dela Rosa got a call from executive search firm John Clemens. The company informed him that fast food firm Jollibee Foods Corp. was looking for a chief finance officer.

"I told my wife that I would just go to Manila to talk to them although I was not confident that I would get the job. I thought that Jollibee would not get a *probinsiyano* like me," Dela Rosa says.

The opposite turned out to be true, however, as Jollibee founder Tony Tan hired him on the spot during his interview.

"I went home to Plaridel and told my wife, "Bad news. I was hired," says Dela Rosa.

Dela Rosa moved to Jollibee as vice president for finance and CFO in 1987. The fast food firm at that time just had 36 outlets churning out about P500 million in revenues, but had tremendous opportunity for growth making Dela Rosa excited to be part of the company.

Finance to sales

Dela Rosa stayed in Jollibee for 12 years, saw the company become the country's biggest fast food company, with operations in several countries abroad including the United States and Hong Kong.

He was also involved in several deals to expand Jollibee's reach, acquiring companies such as Chowking Food Corp. and Greenwich Pizza Corp. as part of its thrust to be a dominant player in the food industry.

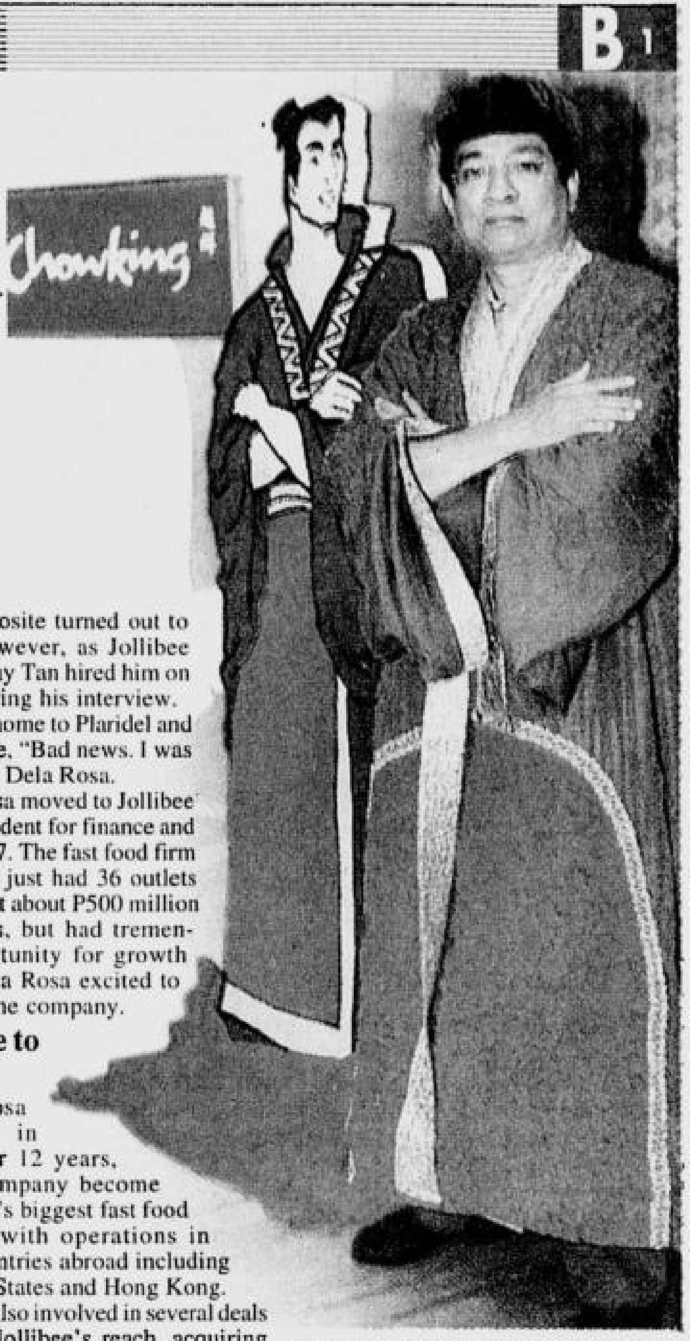
"One day I told our chairman Mr. Tony Tan that the deal with Chowking was finished and so he should appoint now a management team to take over the company since we now own it. What he said was that since I bought it, I should then watch it grow," he says.

"He gave me a choice, he said do I want to just face investors and answer their questions about the company or be actually involved in making a company grow. In the end I really did not have a choice so I went from Jollibee to Chowking in January 2000," he says.

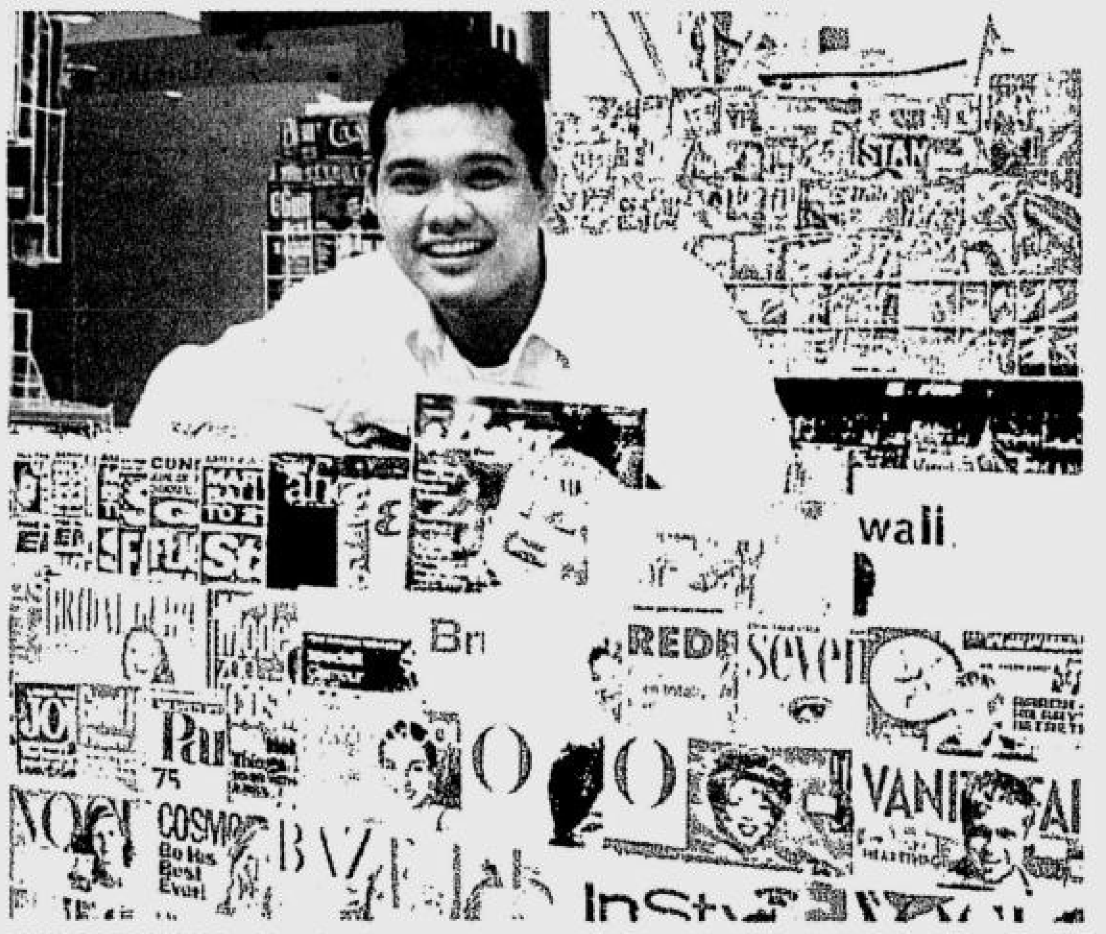
While others may have found it difficult to move from the world of finance to sales and marketing, Dela Rosa thrived.

From a company that had flat sales growth for several years and minimal profit, Dela Rosa was able to turn it around in a year to a company that posted a 20-percent sales growth. In two years, sales grew another 30 percent and Chowking has over 200 outlets sporting

FROM/ B2



FROM JOLLIBEE finance man to CEO and president of Chowking.



THE SPROUTING of local magazines helped boost Zorilla's business.

Farm boy succeeds in selling printed stuff with gift of gab

BY MARGIE QUIMPO-ESPINO

PINOY ENTREPRENEURS

CENEN Zorilla could have ended up as a technical person who faced machines and grease the whole day the rest of his life.

But he was a young man who had no qualms about approaching anyone and his boss saw this.

"I was not afraid to talk to anyone. My boss saw this and told me I could be in marketing," Zorilla, owner of the Binondo Media Publications Inc., one of Metro Manila's largest distributors of magazines, recalls.

At that time he was undergoing an on the job training with an oil refinery in Batangas after finishing a technical course on instrumentation and process control as a scholar of the Meralco Foundation.

He talked further to his boss who told him that if he wanted to succeed he should study business and get a marketing job. "He told me that in a technical position the boss has to die before you go up."

He decided to follow his boss' advice and left his humble beginnings in Pampanga , where his father farms and fishes, to study and look for work in Manila. That was in 1991.

He saw an ad of the Asia Pacific Circulation, which markets international publications like Asian Wall Street Journal, USA Today, The Economist and Businessweek, for an account executive.

The job allowed him to study MBA at night.

In no time, Zorilla's marketing acumen came out.

On his first year he became rookie of the year. His sales continued to go up every year until in 1994 he became the first sales millionaire of the group, meaning he sold P1 million worth of subscriptions of the publications.

"I broke all sales records. I was the first millionaire," he says.

His highest was P1.5 million.

He shares his secret. "I watched out for new hotels that were opening and I cornered their subscription. When these were just being built, I already befriended all the decision-makers, even the GM."

As his reward for good sales, he was sent to Hong Kong and he got a chance to meet the publishers of the publications he was selling. He was also shown the publishing houses' operations.

It was not long before the entrepreneurial spirit in him awakened—largely by what he saw in his trip and second by the desire to make others earn.

In 1996, he decided to go on his own. He said in his previous job, it was only he who was benefiting from his sales. This time he wanted to set up a business that would create employment and enable people to share in the bounty.

Perhaps the fact that he was able to send his younger brothers and sisters to school helped in pushing Zorilla, the eldest of five, to go on his own.

Zorilla is proud that now his siblings include a physical therapist and engineers. The youngest sibling is being sent to school by the three others.

In 1996, through a friend who owned a building, Zorilla opened his first magazine stand in Juan Luna in Binondo. He tailor fit the publications he carried to the largely Chinese market he was serving.

Setting up the shop cost him P300,000 which largely went to the rent and the magazine racks. But he recovered fast and soon he opened another one.

In 1997, he focused on his MBA which up to now he has not finished because of his expansion.

In 1998, he added two more, in 1999, his outlets numbered six. Last year the number doubled to 12.

His expansion continued despite the fact that the latter part of the '90s was marked by the Asian currency crisis which caused a big drop in real estate prices. This particular industry was enjoying a boom in the early '90s but became the cause of the downfall

FARM/ B2

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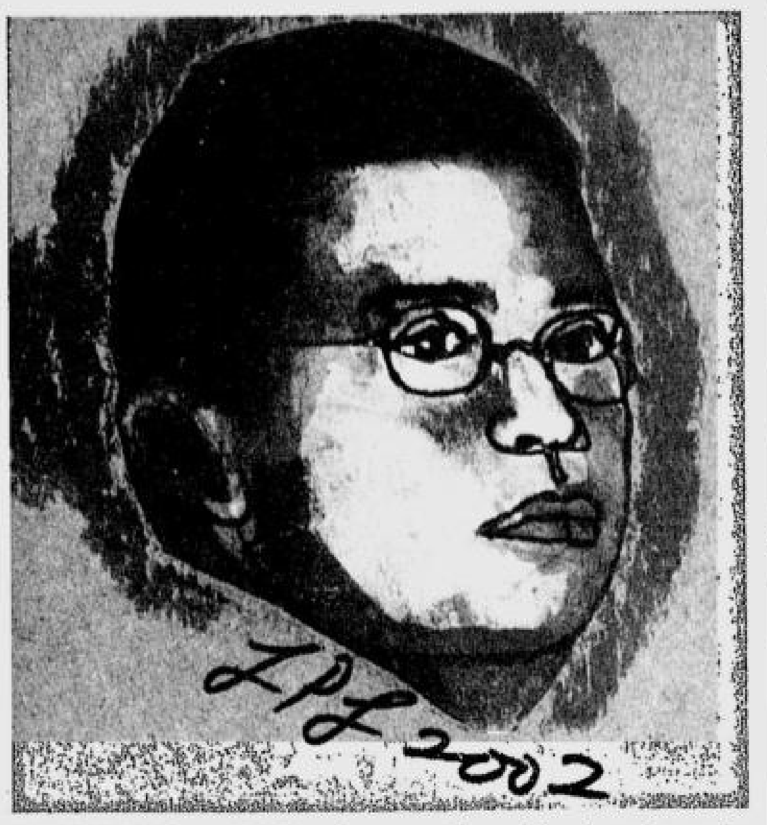
IN YOUR FACE BY L. P. LEVISTE



PRESIDENTS and CEOs of corporations often have to make difficult decisions. For RFM Corp. CEO Jose Concepcion III, one of these difficult decisions was the sale of his "baby" Cosmos Bottling Corp. to food and beverage giant San Miguel Corp. Joey, however, had no choice but to do it, to strengthen RFM for the future.

BERNIE Concepcion, representing Jose Concepcion Jr., and president/ COO of Swift Foods, speaking before the university presidents during the launching of the 2002 search for the Ten Outstanding Students of the Philippines (TOSP) held in conjunction with the Awarding of the Private Higher Educational Institutions in Malacañang Palace on Dec. 20, 2001. Present during the ceremonies were Dr. Ester Garcia, CHED chairperson; Dr. Mona Valisno, presidential assistant on education; Dr. Manuel Punzal, CHED commissioner; Dr. Cristina Padolina. CHED commissioner; and Dr. Carlito Puno, CHED commissioner.

The epic of six brand leaders in magical, truth-full storytelling

"Brand New"
By Nancy F. Koehn
Harvard Business School Press, 2001

BY DANTE M. VELASCO

EXECUTIVE READ

READ this book for a change. It's titled "Brand New," just the right phrase for a brand new year (if we have to make a connection somehow).

But, there's something more about this book than being a refreshing change from a surfeit of books speaking of brand equity, brand loyalty, brand awareness and brand-what-have-you.

It's an epic, not about "branding" as a concept (since that cannot qualify as a great story), but about brand leaders rising above their times and historical milieu—responding to epic movements but, much more so, creating institutions and movements themselves that have deeply changed—and continue to change—people's lives, lifestyles and the way we all look at life, work and play—and the way we look, the way we are scented and the way we dine.

Who says business promises only humdrum existence?

This book's jacket says: "Until Josiah Wedgwood, Britons ate from wood and pewter plates. Until Henry Heinz, women toiled over pickled foods. Until Michael Dell, few people owned a personal computer, let alone dreamed of buying one 'built to order.'" And, if I may add, until Estee Lauder, cosmetics were promoted the all-too-traditional way. And until Starbucks, coffee drinking had no romance.

What is Nancy F. Koehn, Ph.D. (corporate historian of Harvard Business School), talking about? She is talking about six companies with powerful brands: Starbucks, Estee Lauder, Dell Computers, Wedgwood china, Heinz ketchup, Marshall Field giant stores.

What's so special about the six—since there are many more entrepreneurs that also built powerful brands—like Ford, IBM, Coke, Sony, BMW, etc.?

Actually, I have no answer to this question, except to say, that herein lies the problem with inclusions: there are also exclusions. And, of course, I am just reviewing a book (a very good slow read throughout 469 pages)—and not arguing for the author.

But, the author somehow dishes out an explanation why she chose the six.

"All of the brands I discuss were developed during periods when demand-side shifts were altering consumers' priorities. This kind of thing happens in all historical epochs, of course, but in each of the six cases, social and economic changes were racing forward more rapidly than usual," she says.

Four of the entrepreneurs made things: Wedgwood's earthenware, Heinz's bottled pickles, Lauder's cosmetics, and Dell's personal computers.

Ms Koehn says the other two "created encounters" that proved appealing to customers—Fields' department store environment and Schultz's café experience.

How these entrepreneurs created a powerful brand goes beyond marketing.

It was total involvement for the entrepreneur with the product he/ she wholly believed in, investing money and time to perfect it, using a keen eye for any consumer shift, developing an "image"—not only at the marketing front, but more important, from the laboratory, plantation farm, production floor, distribution network, excellent showroom and a workforce that perfectly reflect the image and vision of the entrepreneur.

The book's sections are masterfully divided. First, there are two major divisions: "The Past" (for Wedgwood, Heinz and Field that spanned the 18th to early 20th century) and "The Present" (for Lauder, Schultz and Dell).

The book says much about the author's unflagging will to capture the dust, drift and direction of industries these entrepreneurs created.

She has woven together personages and has placed them on "the world's stage"—providing local color, unfolding historic drama, increasingly interesting plots with every initial resistance and with every emergence of competition, and peppering her storytelling with revealing tales about royalty, the severely rich and the merely famous.

Josiah Wedgwood began the practice of sending gifts to royalty—and then quickly announced that the King or Queen had his china in their dining room. His message to members of the middle class who are palace watchers: "You can have the same china that the Queen has in her stately palace."

That brought prestige to Wedgwood products, drew non-royals to his stores—proving once again that the impulse of "keeping up with the Joneses" has antedated us all. By the way, Wedgwood is the grandfather of Charles Darwin—one of the side stories that make this book really an interesting read.

H. J. Heinz, noting women's shifting roles from the kitchen and into factories and offices, concluded that these women should be free from the cumbersome task of preparing pickles each time.

Thus Heinz introduced preserved pickles. It meant more freedom for women—and to Heinz profits that last till now. Today, the Heinz empire has remained one of the world's leading food processors.

In 2000, the author notes, the flagship Heinz brand accounted for about one-third of the company's $9-billion sales.

Marshall Field introduced a merchandizing strategy that made shopping elegant and enjoyable. As early as the 19th century, Field already decided that "female shoppers wanted an elegant atmosphere, the latest fashions and courteous service—preferably from other women." That was way way back—before Rustans was born if we talk local.

And what about Estee Lauder, born Josephine Esther Mentzer in 1908? Her story is preceded by the sweet-scented story of cosmetics and perfumery dating back to the time when society frowned upon women painting their faces and sporting head-turning scents that make others crazy.

This determined woman, as told by our master storyteller, tried new ways to promote her product—including "a gift for every purchase".

As a sidelight, read about an interesting tale about Helena Rubenstein and Elizabeth Arden deliberately "obscuring their humble beginnings" to project an aristocratic heritage.

How Howard Schultz got inspiration about "specialty coffee" in Milan is an account to inspire entrepreneurs with the truth that you can actually reinvent an old product. Today Starbucks is everywhere. How Michael Dell defied tradition by going into direct marketing to sell his computers is another epic, especially that he took on IBM the giant.

Author Jack Beatty summarizes the book's accomplishment thus: "Brand New" felicitously blends biography, business history and conceptual analysis in a book that gives the vogue word "branding" a rich and surprising past.

At the beginning of the year, be enriched and be astonished. Begin then with this book. *(dantemv@i-next.net)*

Luxury cars roll out at Los Angeles show

LOS ANGELES—The dot-com millionaires are long gone, but luxury carmakers are launching new models anyway, banking that rebates on a Rolls-Royce will boost sales just like they do for cheaper models.

Given a lead time of about five years to develop a new car, 2002 will see the US launch of autos with triple-digit price tags. Several, like Lamborghini's $273,000 Murcielago sports car, are on view at this week's Los Angeles Auto Show, which marks the kick-off of the industry's annual round of new model showcases.

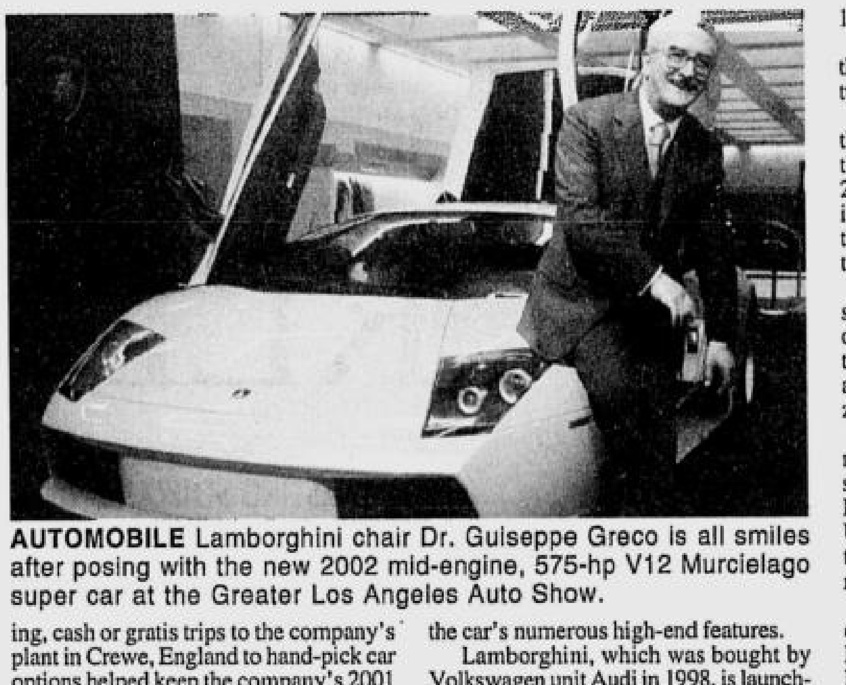
Despite the sluggish economy, automakers who once eyed the bank accounts of the dot-com crowd have picked up the pace of luxury model launches, but they also stand ready to market them with some of the same rebates and incentives that the industry has used to lift sales of lower-end models.

"It's just a matter of how much creativity is needed. Our challenge is to keep the momentum going," said Carsten Preisz, regional marketing manager for Rolls-Royce & Bentley Motor Cars Inc., which is owned by Volkswagen AG.

US automakers have countered that the slowing economy and financial fallout from the Sept. 11 attacks, not to mention stiff competition from overseas, by offering zero-percent financing and other customer incentives, deals that have traditionally been rare in the luxury segment.

"Most of our clients are not swayed by day-to-day offers, but we have kept up a tactical dialogue with them," Preisz said.

Incentives such as zero percent financing, cash or gratis trips to the company's plant in Crewe, England to hand-pick car options helped keep the company's 2001 sales only about 50 cars short of the previous year's tally, he added.



AUTOMOBILE Lamborghini chair Dr. Guiseppe Greco is all smiles after posing with the new 2002 mid-engine, 575-hp V12 Murcielago super car at the Greater Los Angeles Auto Show.

For this year, Rolls-Royce & Bentley expects the status quo or slight growth, the regional manager said.

Bentley, which will unveil a new model at next week's Detroit Auto Show, showed a $370,000 version of its Azure convertible in Los Angeles. A leather interior fashioned from the hides of cows raised fence-free in Scandinavia so they have no scars or blemishes is just one of the car's numerous high-end features.

Lamborghini, which was bought by Volkswagen unit Audi in 1998, is launching its first new car in 10 years.

"We were fortunate to be changing over at the moment the recession started. We have the opportunity to skip this recession . . . in my opinion we are almost out of it," Giuseppe Greco, chief executive of Automobile Lamborghini Holding SpA, told Reuters.

The Italian marque expects to sell 400 Murcielago's annually and will launch in two years a slightly smaller car with a production rate of 1,200-1,300 per year, Greco said.

It takes about 25 times as long to make the $273,000 car than it does to manufacture a conventional auto, he stressed.

The new Lamborghini was named by the Environmental Protection Agency as the least fuel-efficient two-seater for the 2002 model year, but Greco said that at its "normal speed of about 100 mph," the car gets about 13-14 mph, or about the same as a sports utility vehicle.

"It doesn't carry that many kids to a soccer game—they would have to go one at a time," he said of the low-riding two-seater. The Murcielago can travel at more than 205 mph and goes from zero to 60 mph in 3.6 seconds.

The new car puts Lamborghini in direct competition with fellow Italian sports carmaker Ferrari. Ferrari's Maserati brand is also returning to the US market after a 10-year absence with the launch of the 2002 Spyder, which retails for under $100,000.

Bugatti, another Italian brand now owned by Volkswagen, along with DaimlerChrysler AG's Mercedes and BMW AG are set to launch new ultraluxury cars next year.

Mercedes debuted its 2003 SL-500 roadster in Los Angeles Thursday. The car, with a convertible top that takes 16 seconds to open or close, will be launched in March with pricing expected at $83,000 to $85,000.

Jaguar, the luxury UK unit of Ford, unveiled its 2003 S-Type sedan.

The Los Angeles Auto Show opens to the public Saturday and runs until Jan. 13.

Reuters

SEAFOODS harvested in Western Mindanao, such as these octopuses, are a favorite among Japanese and Koreans. At least 30 seafood companies and processing plants in the region, including those in Zamboanga City, are supplying Japan and Korea in addition to the domestic market.

PHOTO COURTESY OF GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO

Seafood firms spawn in Mindanao

DAVAO CITY—The bright prospects of the seafood industry in the Zamboanga Peninsula continue to encourage investments, according to the Growth with Equity (GEM) in Mindanao.

GEM is a program funded by the United States Agency for International Aid, which aims to spur development in the Southern Philippines.

GEM said that to date, the peninsula, also known as Western Mindanao, is already home to more than 30 seafood companies and processing plants.

During last year's food festival in Zamboanga City, entrepreneurs like Susan de los Reyes, displayed varied lines of abalone, octopus, cuttlefish and lobsters, hygienically packaged to international standards.

Western Mindanao, which is composed of Zamboanga del Norte, Zamboanga del Sur, Zamboanga City and the island-province of Basilan, Sulu, and Tawi-Tawi, is one of the country's largest suppliers of seafood products.

"Many are realizing that Western Mindanao, particularly Zamboanga City, makes innovative food products and has excellent potential as a producer of value-added seafood commodities," Emma Salmani of the GEM said.

Salmani said one of the biggest factors that lured investors to the region, particularly Zamboanga City, was its location.

As early as the 13th century, the place that is now Zamboanga City was already a thriving trading center in East Asia.

The city remains the busiest transportation hub in all of Mindanao, accounting for the highest number of ship calls and passenger arrivals.

In 1999, the region exported more than 11,000 metric tons of fresh and processed seafood, amounting to more than US$19 million. ***Joselle d.R. Badilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Farm boy succeeds in selling . . .

(From page B1)

of several firms and financial institutions that had invested heavily in real property.

For Zorilla however, the depressed real estate prices, made his expansion easier.

Negotiations with buildingowners were easier and the rates were more affordable. This enabled him to expand quickly.

This year he hopes to open six more stores. Most of his stores are in Metro Manila but he has one in Robinson's in San Fernando, Pampanga and at the Biñan Mall in Laguna.

Zorilla says his timing of going into business was good. "The key to my business is location. Magazine sales are recession-proof. People want to know more in a crisis. They have more time to read whereas before they were to busy."

He adds that the sprouting of several local magazines also helped boost his business. Foreign publications are too prone to the exchange rate but local ones are more affordable. Today he carries 500 magazine titles in his stands and has the option to bring in 2,000 foreign titles.

Zorilla's ultimate goal is to be the "Jollibee of magazines."

One of his rules however is "I don't want to compete directly with any store or peers in the industry" so he avoids locating near an existing magazine stand.

His ultimate dream which he says he will achieve in three to five years is to set up his own building and to eventually go into publishing.

As his beginnings were humble, Zorilla wants his firm to be a doorway for his people to also rise above the ranks.

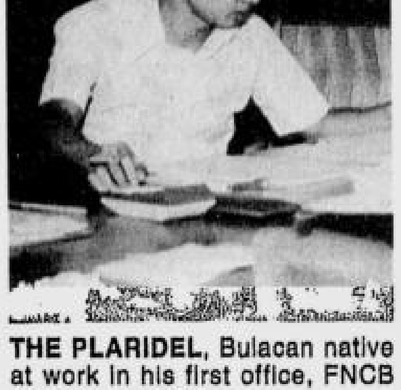
"I do not limit people's capabilities. They should have aspirations to do more. Like what happened in my life," says the 30-year-old.

He told his people he wants each one to have a chance to grow. He wants to hire people from within.

"I want to empower my people. These days I can leave the office and they know what to do. I give them a sense of responsibility."

And success of course has its perks, Zorilla says he has not traded his family's "*bulok-bulok*" vehicle for a Pajero.

From earning ₱1 a day to food chain president



THE PLARIDEL, Bulacan native at work in his first office, FNCB Finance, in 1971.

(From page B1)

a brand new look that blends influences from the East and West.

Chowking was even named The Most Promising Filipino Franchise in 2000 and then named the Most Outstanding Filipino Franchise last year.

The turnaround so inspired the Jollibee board that Dela Rosa was again asked to head Greenwich as CEO in October 2000 to do the same to the pizza company. And so he did.

Greenwich grew 10 percent in 2001 and is projected to grow another 20 percent this year.

Discipline

"Looking back it does not seem like a match being a CEO of companies like these with my background as a CPA but maybe I was able to do well because running through my veins is the blood of an entrepreneur," Dela Rosa says.

Dela Rosa and his wife, after all, still run a small business and his relatives told him that his great grandfather used to own the biggest trading firm in Plaridel during the American period.

"So maybe it is really in my blood, and add to it the discipline in finance which exposes you to the realities of cash flow, and a heart for giving the customers the best, then I was able to make the transition to being a CEO," he says.

He says he would not have been able to turn Chowking and Greenwich around if not for the collective effort of the people. He says the people were all willing to work with him to achieve these seemingly insurmountable goals.

"I personally believe that success is dependent on how the people are motivated, so I motivate them by keeping an eye on achieving goals but at the same time having fun doing it. I do not want to be perceived as difficult, but rather someone who inspires. I make sure that the other managers below me have the same mindset," he says.

Dela Rosa, for instance, remains in constant contact with the store managers of the two chains through text messaging. He personally sends out messages, just to ask them how they are doing. If someone does well, then he can expect a congratulatory message from the president.

"I want to maintain close contact with the people in the front line because it helps them do their best. I want people to consider me not just as president of the company but someone who is actually involved in the operations," he says.

DELA Rosa with the management committee of Jollibee with former president Corazon C. Aquino

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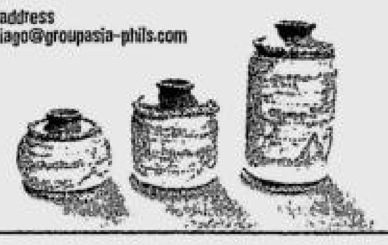

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DENR

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES

National Solid Waste Management Commission

Office of the Secretariat
Visayas Avenue, Quezon City

DENR ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER NO. 2001-34

Series of 2001

SUBJECT: IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT 9003

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 59 of Republic Act No. 9003, otherwise known as the "Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000," and by virtue of Executive Order No. 192, Series of 1987, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources hereby adopts and promulgates the following rules and regulations

PART I GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule I. Preliminary Provisions

Section 1. Title
Theses Rules shall be known and cited as the "Implementing Rules and Regulations of the Philippine Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000."

Section 2. Purpose
These Rules are promulgated to prescribe the procedures and guidelines for the implementation of the Philippine Solid Waste Management Act of 9003 in order to facilitate compliance therewith and achieve the objectives thereof.

Section 3. Scope
These Rules shall lay down the powers and functions of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Trade and Industry, all other concerned agencies and local government units, the rights and obligations of stakeholders and the rights and duties of the people with respect tot the implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management.

Section 4. Construction
These Implementing Rules and Regulations shall be liberally construed to carry out the national policy of adopting a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program consistent with the pursuit of sustainable development. The Rules also cover support actions such as research and studies on solid wastes, providing technical standards and guidelines for effective waste management systems.

Section 5. Administrative and Enforcement
These Rules and Regulations shall be administered by the Secretary or his duly authorized representative or thorough any other department, bureau, office, agency, local government units, state university or college and other instrumentalities of the government for assistance in the form of personnel, facilities and other resources as the need arises in the discharge of its functions.

Rule II. Declaration of State Policy

Section 1. Declaration of Policies
It is the policy of the State to adopt a systematic, comprehensive and ecological solid waste management program which shall:

a) Ensure the protection of public health and environment;
b) Utilize environmentally-sound methods that maximize the utilization of valuable resources and encourage resources conservation and recovery;
c) Set guidelines and targets for solid waste avoidance and volume reduction through source reduction and waste minimization measures, including composing, recycling, re-use, recovery, green charcoal process, and others, before collection, treatment and disposal in appropriate and environmentally-sound solid waste management facilities in accordance with ecologically sustainable development principles;
d) Ensure the proper segregation, collection, transport, storage, treatment and disposal of solid waste through the formulation and adoption of the best environmental practices in ecological waste management excluding incineration;
e) Promote national research and development programs for improved solid waste management and resource conservation techniques, more effective institutional arrangement and indigenous and improved methods of waste reduction, collection, separation and recovery;
f) Encourage greater private sector participation in solid waste management;
g) Retain primary enforcement and responsibility of solid waste management with local government units while establishing a cooperative effort among the national government, other local government units, non-government organizations, and the private sector;
h) Encourage cooperation and self-regulation among waste generators through the application of market-based instruments;
i) Institutionalize public participation in the development and implementation of national and local integrated, comprehensive and ecological waste management programs; and
j) Strengthen the integration of ecological solid waste management and resource conservation and recovery topics into the academic curricula of formal and non-formal education in order to promote environmental awareness and action among the citizenry.

Rule III. Definition of Terms

Section 1. Definitions

For the purpose of these Implementing Rules and Regulations, the following words and phrases shall have the following meanings:

"Agricultural waste" shall refer to waste generated from planting or harvesting of crops, trimming or pruning of plants and wastes or run-off materials from farms or fields.

"Bulky wastes" shall refer to waste materials which cannot be appropriately placed in separate containers because of either its bulky size, shape or other physical attributes. These include large worn-out or broken household, commercial, and industrial items such as furniture, lamps, bookcases, filing cabinets, and other similar items.

"Bureau" shall refer to the Environmental Management Bureau.

"Buy-back center" shall refer to a recycling center that purchases or otherwise accepts recyclable materials from the public for the purpose of recycling such materials.

"Collection" shall refer to the act of removing solid waste from the source or from a communal storage point.

"Composting" shall refer to the controlled decomposition of organic matter by micro-organisms, mainly bacteria and fungi, into a humus-like product.

"Consumer electronics" shall refer to special wastes that include worn-out, broken, and other discarded items such as radios, stereos, and TV sets.

"Controlled dump" shall refer to a disposal site at which solid waste is deposited in accordance with the minimum prescribed standards of site operation.

"Department" shall refer to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Disposal" shall refer to the discharge, deposit, dumping, spilling, leaking or placing of any solid waste into or in any land.

"Disposal site" shall refer to a site where solid waste is finally discharged and deposited.

"Ecological solid waste management" shall refer to the systematic administration of activities which provide for segregation at source, segregated transportation, storage, transfer, processing, treatment, and disposal of solid waste and all other waste management activities which do not harm the environment.

"Environmentally acceptable" shall refer to the quality of being re-usable, biodegradable or compostable, recyclable and not toxic or hazardous to the environment.

"Environmentally preferable" shall refer to products or services that have a lesser or reduced effect on human health and the environment when compared with competing products or services that serve the same purpose. This comparison may consider raw materials acquisition, production, manufacturing, packaging, distribution, reuse, operation, maintenance or disposal of the product or service.

"Generation" shall refer to the act or process of producing solid waste.

"Generator" shall refer to a person, natural or juridical, who last uses a material and makes it available for disposal or recycling.

"Hazardous waste" shall refer to solid waste or combination of solid waste which because of its quantity, concentration, or physical, chemical or infectious characteristics may: cause, or significantly contribute to an increase in mortality or an increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible, illness; or pose a substantial present or potential hazard to human health or the environment when improperly treated, stored, transported, or disposed of, or otherwise managed.

"Leachate" shall refer to the liquid produced when waste undergo decomposition, and when water percolate through solid waste undergoing decomposition. It is a contaminated liquid that contains dissolved and suspended materials.

"Life cycle assessment" shall refer to the compilation and evaluation of the inputs, outputs and the potential environmental impacts of a product system throughout its life cycle.

"Materials recovery facility" shall include solid waste transfer station or sorting station, drop-off center, a composting facility, and a recycling facility.

"Municipal wastes" shall refer to wastes produced from activities within local government units which include a combination of domestic, commercial, institutional and industrial wastes and street litters.

"Non-environmentally acceptable products or packaging" shall refer to products or packaging that are unsafe in production, use, post-consumer use, or that produce or release harmful products.

"Open burning" shall refer to the thermal destruction of wastes by means of direct exposure to fire. Furthermore, this definition shall apply to traditional small-scale methods of community sanitation "siga".

"Open dump" shall refer to a disposal area wherein the solid wastes are indiscriminately thrown or disposed of without due planning and consideration for environmental and health standards.

"Opportunity to recycle" shall refer to the act of providing a place for collecting source-separated recyclable material, located either at a disposal site or at another location more convenient to the population being served, and collection at least once a month of source-separated recyclable material from collection service customers and to providing a public education and promotion program that gives notice to each person of the opportunity to recycle and encourage source separation of recyclable material.

"Person(s)" shall refer to any being, natural or juridical, susceptible of rights and obligations, or of being the subject of legal relations.

"Post-consumer material" shall refer only to those materials or products generated by a business or consumer which have served their intended end use, and which have been separated or diverted from solid waste for the purpose of being collected, processed and used as a raw material in the manufacturing of recycled product, excluding materials and by-products generated from, and commonly used within an original manufacturing process, such as mill scrap.

"Receptacles" shall refer to individual containers used for the source separation and the collection of recyclable materials.

"Recovered material" shall refer to material and by-products that have been recovered or diverted from solid waste for the purpose of being collected, processed and used as a raw material in the manufacture of a recycled product.

"Recyclable material" shall refer to any waste material retrieved from the waste stream and free from contamination that can still be converted into suitable beneficial use or for other purposes, including, but not limited to, newspaper, ferrous scrap metal, non-ferrous scrap metal, used oil, corrugated cardboard, aluminum, glass, office paper, tin cans, plastics and other materials as may be determined by the Commission.

"Recycled material" shall refer to post-consumer material that has been recycled and returned to the economy.

"Recycling" shall refer to the treating of used or waste materials through a process of making them suitable for beneficial use and for other purposes, and includes any process by which solid waste materials are transformed into new products in such a manner that the original products may lose their identity, and which may be used as raw materials for the production of other goods or services: Provided, that the collection, segregation and re-use of previously used packaging material shall be deemed recycling under the Act.

"Resource conservation" shall refer to the reduction of the amount of solid waste that are generated or the reduction of overall resource consumption, and utilization of recovered resources.

"Resource recovery" shall refer to the collection, extraction or recovery of recyclable materials from the waste stream for the purpose of recycling, generating energy or producing a product suitable for beneficial use: Provided, That, such resource recovery facilities exclude incineration.

"Re-use" shall refer to the process of recovering materials intended for the same or different purpose without the alteration of physical and chemical characteristics.

"Sanitary landfill" shall refer to a waste disposal site designed, constructed, operated and maintained in a manner that exerts engineering control over significant potential environmental impacts arising from the development and operation of the facility.

"Schedule of Compliance" shall refer to an enforceable sequence of actions or operations to be accomplished within a stipulated time frame leading to compliance with a limitation, prohibition, or standard set forth in the Act or any rule or regulation issued pursuant thereto.

"Secretary" shall refer to the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

"Segregation" shall refer to sorting and segregation of different materials found in solid waste in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and to reduce the volume of waste for collection and disposal.

"Segregation at source" shall refer to a solid waste management practice of separating, at the point of origin, different materials found in solid waste in order to promote recycling and re-use of resources and to reduce the volume of waste for collection and disposal.

"Solid waste" shall refer to all discarded household, commercial waste, non-hazardous institutional, ports / harbour and industrial waste, street sweepings, construction debris, agriculture waste, and other non-hazardous/non-toxic solid waste. Unless specifically noted otherwise, the term "solid waste" as used in the Act shall not include:

a) waste identified or listed as hazardous waste of a solid, liquid, contained gaseous or semisolid form which may cause or contribute to an increase in mortality or in serious or incapacitating reversible illness, or acute/chronic effect on the health of persons and other organisms;
b) infectious waste from hospitals such as equipment, instruments, utensils, and fomites of a disposable nature from patients who are suspected to have or have been diagnosed as having communicable diseases and must therefore be isolated as required by public health agencies, laboratory wastes such as pathological specimens (i.e., all tissues, specimens of blood elements, excreta, and secretions obtained from patients or laboratory animals), and disposable fomites that may harbor or transmit pathogenic organisms, and surgical operating room pathologic specimens and disposable fomites attendant thereto, and similar disposable materials from outpatient areas and emergency rooms; and
c) waste resulting from mining activities, including contaminated soil and debris.

"Solid waste management" shall refer to the discipline associated with the control of generation, storage, collection, transfer and transport, processing, and disposal of solid wastes in a manner that is in accord with the best principles of public health, economics, engineering, conservation, aesthetics, and other environmental considerations, and that is also responsive to public attitudes.

"Solid waste management facility" shall refer to any resource recovery system or component thereof; any system, program, or facility for resource conservation; any facility for the collection, source separation, storage, transportation, transfer, processing, treatment, or disposal of solid waste.

"Source reduction" shall refer to the reduction of solid waste before it enters the solid waste stream by methods such as product design, materials substitution, materials re-use and packaging restrictions.

"Source separation" shall refer to the sorting of solid waste into some or all of its component parts at the point of generation.

"Special wastes" shall refer to household hazardous wastes such as paints, thinners, household batteries, lead-acid batteries, spray canisters and the like. These include wastes from residential and commercial sources that comprise of bulky wastes, consumer electronics, white goods, yard wastes that are collected separately, batteries, oil, and tires. These wastes are usually handled separately from other residential and commercial wastes.

"Storage" shall refer to the interim containment of solid waste after generation and prior to collection for ultimate recovery or disposal.

"Transfer stations" shall refer to those facilities utilized to receive solid wastes, temporarily store, separate, convert, or otherwise process the materials in the solid wastes, or to transfer the solid wastes directly from smaller to larger vehicles for transport. This term does not include any of the following:

a) a facility whose principal function is to receive, store, separate, convert, or otherwise process in accordance with national minimum standards;
b) a facility, whose principal function is to receive, store, convert, or otherwise process wastes which have already been separated for re-use and are not intended for disposal; and
c) the operations premises of a duly licensed solid waste handling operator who receives, stores, transfers, or otherwise processes wastes as an activity incidental to the conduct of a refuse collection and disposal business.

"Waste diversion" shall refer to activities which reduce or eliminate the amount of solid wastes from waste disposal facilities.

"White goods" shall refer to large worn-out or broken household, commercial, and industrial appliances such as stoves, refrigerators, dishwaters, and clothes washers and dryers collected separately. White goods are usually dismantled for the recovery of specific materials (e.g., copper, aluminum, etc.).

"Yard waste" shall refer to wood, small or chipped branches, leaves, grass clippings, garden debris, vegetables residue that is recognizable as part of a plant or vegetable and other materials identified by the Commission.

PART II INSTITUTIONAL STRUCTURES AND MECHANISMS

Rule IV. Oversight Arrangements

Section 1. Powers and Functions of the National Solid Waste Management Commission

A National Solid Waste Management Commission, hereinafter referred to as the Commission, and under the Office of the President, is hereby established. The Commission is tasked to oversee the implementation of solid waste management plans and prescribe policies to achieve the objectives of the Act. The Commission shall undertake the following activities:

a) Prepare the National Solid Waste Management Framework;
b) Approve local solid waste management plans in accordance with its rules and regulations:
c) Review and monitor the implementation of local solid waste management plans;
d) Coordinate the operation of local solid waste management boards in the provincial and city/municipal levels;
e) To the maximum extent feasible, utilizing existing resources, assist provincial, city and municipal solid waste management boards the preparation, modification, and implementation of waste management plans;
f) Develop a model provincial, city and municipal solid waste management plan that will establish prototypes of the content and format which provinces, cities and municipalities may use in meeting the requirements of the National Solid Waste Management Framework;
g) Adopt a program to provide technical and other capability building assistance and support to local government units in the development and implementation of source reduction programs;
h) Develop and implement a program to assist local government units in the identification of markets for materials that are diverted from disposal facilities through re-use, recycling, and composting and other environment-friendly methods;
i) Develop a mechanism for the imposition of sanctions for the violation of environmental rules and regulations;
j) Manage the Solid Waste Management Fund;
k) Develop and prescribe procedures for the issuance of appropriate permits and clearances;
l) Review the incentives scheme for effective solid waste management, for purposes of ensuring relevance and efficiency in achieving the objectives of the Act;
m) Formulate the necessary education promotion and information campaign strategies;
n) Establish, after notice and hearing of the parties concerned, standards, criteria, guidelines and formula that are fair, equitable and reasonable in establishing tipping charges and rates that the proponent will charge in the operation and management of solid waste management facilities and technologies;
o) Develop safety nets and alternative livelihood programs for small recyclers and other sectors that will be affected as a result of the construction and/ or operation of a solid waste management recycling plant or facility;
p) Formulate and update a list of non-environmentally acceptable materials in accordance with the provisions of the Act. For this purpose, it shall be necessary that proper consultation be conducted by the Commission with all concerned industries to ensure a list that is based on technological and economic viability;
q) Encourage private sector initiatives, community participation and investments resource recovery-based livelihood programs for local communities;
r) Encourage all local government agencies and all local government units to patronize products manufactured using recycled and recyclable materials;
s) Propose and adopt regulations requiring the source separation and post separation collection, segregated collection, processing, marketing and sale of organic and designated recyclable material generated in each local government unit; and
t) Study and review the following:
    1. Standards, criteria and guidelines for the promulgation and implementation of an integrated national solid waste management framework; and
    2. Criteria and guidelines for siting, design, operation and maintenance of solid waste management facilities.

Section 2. Composition and Membership of the Commission
The Commission shall be composed of fourteen (14) members from the government sector and three (3) members from the private sector. The heads of the following agencies, in their ex-officio capacity, shall represent the government sector:

a. Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
b. Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
c. Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
d. Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH);
e. Department of Health (DOH);
f. Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
g. Department of Agriculture (DA);
h. Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA);
i. League of Provinces of the Philippines (LPP);
j. League of Cities of the Philippines (LCP);
k. League of Municipalities of the Philippines (LMP);
l. Liga ng Mga Barangay;
m. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA); and
n. Philippine Information Agency (PIA).

The private sectors are to be represented by the following:

a. A representative from non-government organizations (NGOs) whose principal purpose is to promote recycling and the protection of air and water quality;
b. A representative from the recycling industry; and
c. A representative from the manufacturing or packaging industry.

The Department Secretary and a private sector representative of the Commission shall serve as chairman and vice-chairman, respectively. The Commission may, from time to time, call on any other concerned agencies or sectors as it may deem necessary. The Secretaries/Heads of the member agencies of the Commission shall formulate action plans for their respective agencies to complement the National Solid Waste Management Framework.

Section 3. Selection Process and Tenure of Office for the Private Sector Representatives
Representatives from the NGOs, recycling and manufacturing or packaging industries shall be nominated through a process designed by themselves and shall be appointed by the President for a term of three (3) years.

The appointment of private sector representatives shall be based on the following criteria:

a. Integrity;
b. High degree of professionalism; and
c. Distinguished themselves in the environmental and resource management sector.

In any event that members of the Commission fail to complete his/her term, the successor shall also be appointed by the President but only for the unexpired portion of term.

Section 4. Meetings of the Commission
The Commission shall meet at least once a month. The presence of at least a majority of the members shall constitute a quorum. The chairman, or in his absence the vice-chairman, shall be presiding officer. In the absence of the heads of the agencies mentioned under Section 4 of the Act, they may designate permanent representatives to attend the meetings.

Section 5. Conduct of Business of the Commission
Within six (6) months upon effectivity of the IRR, the Commission shall formulate its governing rules that will define its conduct of business in carrying out the functions stipulated above.

RULE V. SUPPORT INSTITUTIONAL MECHANISMS

Section 1. Role of the National and Regional Ecology Centers
Under the Commission, a National Ecology Center is to be established headed by the Director of the EMB in his ex-officio capacity. Regional Ecology Centers will also be established headed by EMB Regional Directors in their ex-officio capacity. The Ecology Centers shall provide technical expertise, information, training and networking services for the implementation of the provisions of the Act. The Center shall specifically perform the following functions:

a) Facilitate training and education in integrated ecological solid waste management through the following:
    1. formulation of training program for LGUs and private sector on the proper management of solid wastes;
    2. development of training program on the technical operations of solid waste management facilities;
    3. formulation of training program for deputized enforcers and implementers
    4. development of an accreditation and certification system for the conduct and holding of training programs on solid waste management; and
    5. In collaboration with the Department of Education (DeptEd) develop an education program that will promote an effective solid waste management systems.
b) Establish and manage a comprehensive solid waste management information data base and dissemination system focusing, inter alia, on the following areas:
    1. In collaboration with DTI, a solid waste generation and management techniques as well as the management, technical and operational approaches to resource recovery;
    2. In collaboration with DTI and processors/recyclers, the list of materials being recycled or brought by them and their respective prices; and
    3. In coordination with DTI information on cleaner production/cleaner technologies that promote efficient solid waste management.

c) Promote the development of a recycling market through the establishment of a national recycling network that will enhance the opportunity for recycling;
d) Act as the hub for networking of LGUs, NGOs and industry on voluntary compliance of the pertinent provisions of the Act;
e) Provide or facilitate expert assistance in pilot modeling of solid waste management facilities including technologies and techniques for effective solid waste management;
f) Develop, test and disseminate model waste minimization and reduction auditing procedures for evaluation options; and
g) Act as the clearinghouse for cleaner production/cleaner technologies on solid waste management.

The Ecology Centers shall give primary consideration of making all the information generated, collected, recorded and stored accessible to the general public. Said information shall include data for solid waste management plans, the National Framework, the National Status Report and all other relevant information necessary to ecological solid waste management.

Section 2. Functions of the Secretariat

The Department, through the Environmental Management Bureau, shall provide secretariat support to the Commission. An Executive Director who shall be nominated by the members of the Commission and appointed by the Chairman of the Commission shall head the Secretariat. The general functions of the Secretariat shall the following:

a) Prepare all the documents that are to be tabled for deliberation by the Commission;
b) Record and document all the proceedings of the meetings;
c) Handle all the administrative requisites of the Commission;
d) Index and keep all records used and referenced by the Commission;
e) Serve as the clearinghouse for all projects/programs for implementation by the LGUs and/or the public or private sector;
f) Evaluate and review proposals submitted for funding support from the Solid Waste Management Fund; and
g) Perform all other functions as may be deemed necessary by the Commission.

Section 3. Role of the Department

For the furtherance of the objectives of the Act, the Department shall have the following functions:

a) Chair the Commission created pursuant to the Act;
b) Prepare an annual National Solid Waste Management Status Report;
c) Prepare and distribute information, education and communication materials on solid waste management;
d) Establish methods and other parameters for the measurement of waste reduction, collection and disposal;
e) Provide technical and other capability building assistance and support to the LGUs in the development and implementation of local solid waste management plans and programs;
f) Recommend policies to eliminate barriers to waste reduction programs;
g) Exercise visitorial and enforcement powers to ensure strict compliance with the Act;
h) Issue rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of the Act; and
i) Perform such other powers and functions necessary to achieve the objectives to the Act.

Section 4. Visitorial Powers of the Department

a) Reports and records requirements

The Department or its duly authorized representative shall have access to, and the right to copy therefrom, all records required to be maintained pursuant to the provisions of the Act.

b) Right of entry, inspection and investigation

The Secretary or the duly authorized representative shall likewise have the right to enter the premises of any generator, recycler or manufacturer, or other facilities any time to question any employee or investigate any fact, condition or matter which may be necessary to determine any violation of the provisions of the Act. The Department within three (3) months following the effectivity of this Rules and Regulations shall issue the specific protocols that will be observed in involving visitorial powers authorized under the Act.

Section 5. Licenses and Permits Issued by the Department

No persons, entity or company will be allowed to construct or operate any SWM facility until the said person or entity has applied for and obtained valid permits and licenses to operate. The Bureau, in coordination with the relevant agencies and local government units, shall identify the specific permitting and licensing requirements under its existing regulatory functions for each of the corresponding phases of the SWM. The listing of permitting and licensing requirements shall be published within six (6) months following the effectivity of these Rules and Regulations.

RULE VI. CREATION OF LOCAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT BOARDS

Section 1. Creation of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Boards

Local Solid Waste Management Boards shall be created and established in each of the concerned LGUs. At the provincial level, a Provincial Solid Waste Management (SWM) Board shall be established with the governor as the chair. Correspondingly, for cities and municipalities, City/Municipality Solid Waste Management (SWM) Boards is also created. Within six (6) months upon effectivity of this rules and regulations all LGUs are mandated to already establish their respective Boards. The Department, in collaboration with DILG shall assist the LGUs in facilitating the setting up of the Boards.

Section 2. Functions of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Board

The Provincial SWM Board shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Develop a provincial solid waste management plan from the submitted solid waste management plans of the respective city and municipal solid waste management boards herein created. It shall review and integrate the submitted plans of all its component cities and municipalities and ensure that the various plans complement each other, and have the requisite components. The Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan shall be submitted to the Commission for approval

   The Provincial Plan shall reflect the general program of action and initiatives of the provincial government in implementing a solid waste management program that would support the various initiatives of its component cities and municipalities.
b) Provide the necessary logistical and operational support to its component cities and municipalities in consonance with subsection (f) of Section 17 of the Local Government Code.
c) Recommend measures and safeguards against pollution and for the preservation of the natural ecosystem.
d) Recommend measures to generate resources, funding and implementation of projects and activities as specified in the duly approved solid waste management plans.
e) Identify areas within it jurisdiction, which have common solid waste management problems and are appropriate units for planning local solid waste management services in accordance with Section 41 hereof.
f) Coordinate the efforts of the component cities and municipalities in the implementation of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan.
g) Development an appropriate incentive scheme as an integral component of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan.
h) Convene joint meetings of the provincial, city and municipal solid waste management boards at least every quarter for purposes of integrating, synchronizing, monitoring and evaluating the development and implementation of its provincial solid waste management plan.
i) Represent any of its component city or municipality in coordinating its resource and operational requirements with agencies of the national government.
j) Oversee the implementation of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan.
k) Review every two (2) years or as the need arises, the Provincial Solid Waste Management Plan for purposes of ensuring its sustainability, viability, effectiveness and relevance in relation to local and international developments in the field of solid waste management.
l) Allow for the clustering of LGUs for the solution of common solid waste management problems.

Section 3. Membership in the Provincial SWM Board

The Provincial SWM Board is to be chaired by the governor and comprised by the following as members:

a) All the mayors of its component cities and municipalities;
b) One (1) representative form the Sangguniang Panlalawigan to be represented by the chairperson of either the Committees on Environment or Health or their equivalent committees, to be nominated by the presiding officer;
c) The provincial health and/or general services officers, whichever may be recommended by the governor;
d) The provincial environment and natural resources officer;
e) The provincial engineer;
f) Congressional representative(s) from each congressional district within the province;
g) A representative from the NGO sector whose principal purpose is to promote recycling and the protection of air and water quality;
h) A representative from the recycling industry;
i) A representative from the manufacturing or packaging industry; and
j) A representative of each concerned government agency possessing relevant technical and marketing expertise as may be determined by the Board.

The Provincial SWM Board may, from time to time, call on any other concerned agencies or sectors as it may deem necessary.

Representatives from the NGOs, recycling and manufacturing or packaging industries shall be selected through a process designed by themselves and shall be endorsed by the government agency representatives of the Board.

In the case of the Province of Palawan, the Board is to be chaired by the chairman of the Palawan Council for Sustainable Development, pursuant to Republic Act No. 7611.

In the case of Metro Manila, the Board shall be chaired by the chairperson of the MMDA and its members shall include:

a) All mayors of its component cities and municipalities;
b) A representative from the NGO sector whose principal purpose is to promote recycling and the protection of air and water quality
c) A representative from the recycling industry; and
d) A representative from the manufacturing or packaging industry.

Section 4. Creation of a City and Municipal Solid Wastes Management Board

The City and Municipal SWM Boards shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

a) Develop the City or Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan that shall ensure the long-term management of solid waste, as well as integrate the various solid waste management plans and strategies of the barangays in its area of jurisdiction. In the development of the Solid Waste Management Plan, it shall conduct consultations with the various sectors of the community;
b) Adopt measures to promote and ensure the viability and effective implementation of solid waste management programs in its component barangays;
c) Monitor the implementation of the City or Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan through its various political subdivisions and in cooperation with the private sector and the NGOs;
d) Adopt specific revenue-generating measure to promote the viability of its Solid Waste Management Plan;
e) Convene regular meetings fro purposes of planning and coordinating the implementation of the solid waste management plans of the respective component barangays;
f) Oversee the implementation of the City or Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan;
g) Review every two (2) years or as the need arises the City or Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan for purposes of ensuring its sustainability, viability, effectiveness and relevance in relation to local and international developments in the field of solid waste management;
h) Develop the specific mechanics and guidelines for the implementation of the City or Municipal Solid Waste Management Plan;
i) Recommend to appropriate local government authorities specific measure or proposals for franchise or build-operate-transfer agreements with duly recognized institutions, pursuant to RA 6967, to provide either exclusive or non-exclusive authority for the collection, transfer, storage, processing, recycling or disposal of municipal solid waste. The proposals shall take into consideration appropriate government rules and regulations on contracts, franchises and build-operate-transfer agreements.
j) Provide the necessary logistical and operational support to its component cities and municipalities in consonance with subsection (f) of Section 17 of the Local Government Code;
k) Recommend measures and safeguards against pollution and for the preservation of the natural ecosystem; and
l) Coordinated the efforts of its component barangays in the implementation of the city or municipal Solid Waste Management Plan.

The Bureau shall provide advisory technical assistance in setting up of the local solid waste management boards. The Commission shall provide the policy directions for the Local Solid Waste Management Boards pursuant to section 8 of these Rules and Regulations.

It shall be the duty of the LSWMBs and municipalities, to assist barangays in their solid waste management, where the barangay cannot financially or adequately manage all waste segregation, sorting, recovery, recycling and composting, conducted at the MRF.

LGUs may assist the barangay either financially, technically or in any other manner deemed necessary in order to achieve the waste diversion goal of section 20 of the Act. Provided that within 45 days of the effectivity of the IRRs, the Liga Ng Mga Barangay shall assess and thereby determine, those barangays requiring assistance from their respective LGUs. The LNB shall subsequently inform the respective LSWMBs of its findings.

Section 5. Membership of the City and Municipal SWM Board

The City and Municipals SWM Board shall be composed of the city or municipal mayor as chair with the following as members:

a) One (1) representative of the Sangguniang Panlungsod or the Sangguniang Bayan, preferably chairpersons of either the Committees on Environment or Health, who will be designated by the presiding officer;
b) President of the Association of Barangay Councils in the municipality or city;
c) Chairperson of the Sangguniang Kabataan Federation;
d) A representative from NGOs whose principal purpose is to promote recycling and the protection of air and water quality;
e) A representative from the recycling industry;
f) A representative form the manufacturing or packaging industry; and
g) A representative of each concerned government agency possessing relevant technical and marketing expertise as may be determined by the Board.

The City or Municipal Solid Waste Management Board may, from time to time, call on any concerned agencies or sectors as it may deem necessary.

Representatives from the NGOs, recycling and manufacturing or packaging industries shall be selected through a process designed by themselves and shall be endorsed by the government agency representatives of the Board.

Section 6. Creation of a Barangay Solid Waste Management Committee

The Barangay SWM Board shall have the following functions and responsibilities:

a) Formulate solid waste management program consistent with city municipality plan
b) Segregation and collection of biodegradable, compostable, reusable wastes
c) Establish materials recovery facility
d) Allocate barangay funds; look for sources of funds
e) Organize core coordinators
f) Submit monthly report to city or municipality

Section 7. Membership of the Barangay Solid Waste Management Committee

The Barangay SWM Board shall be composed of the barangay captain as chair with the following as members:

a) One (1) kagawad
b) SK chair
c) Presidents of Home Owners Association
d) Public/private school principals or representative
e) One (1) Parents and Teachers Association president or representative
f) One (1) Religious organization representative
g) One (1) Bus community representative
h) One (1) environmental NGO representative
i) President of Market Vendors Association; One (1) representative from junkshop owners' association

Section 8. Encouraging the Setting up of Multi-purpose Environmental Cooperative or Association in LGUs

Multi-purpose cooperatives and associations shall be encouraged and promoted in every LGU. The DENR and DTI, through their appropriate bureaus, and with the involvement of the National Ecology Center, shall provide technical assistance and advisory guidance to any interested parties duly supported by the LGUs intending to set up the multi purpose environmental cooperatives or associations.

PART III COMPREHENSIVE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

RULE VII. PLANNING AND PROGRAMMING POLICY FOR SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT

Section 1. The National Solid Waste Management Framework (NSWMF)

The Commission shall consider and adopt appropriate mechanisms that will facilitate the completion of the Framework. The Framework shall be updated every five years and integrated in the Medium Term Development Plan. The framework shall reflect, among others the following elements:

a) Assessment of SWM situation

1. Analysis and evaluation of the current state, trends projections of solid waste management on the national, provincial and municipal levels;
2. Identification of critical solid waste facilities and local government units which will need closer monitoring and/or regulation;
3. Characteristics and conditions of collection, storage, processing, disposal, operating methods, techniques and practices, location of facilities where such operating methods, techniques and practices are conducted, taking into account the nature of the waste;
4. The profile of sources, including industrial, commercial, domestic and other sources.

b) Analysis of Options

1. Practical applications of environmentally sound techniques of waste minimization such as, but not limited to, resource conservation, segregation at source, recycling, resource recovery, including waste-to-energy generation, re-use and composting;
2. A technical and economical description of the level of performance that can be attained by various available solid waste management practices which provide for the protection of public health and the environment;
3. Methods of closing or upgrading open dumps for purposes of eliminating potential health hazards;
4. Appropriate solid waste facilities and conservation systems;
5. Recycling programs for the recyclable materials, such as but not limited to glass, paper, plastic and metal.

c) Mandatory Program of Actions

1. Waste diversion goal pursuant to Section 20 of the Act;
2. Schedule for the closure and/or upgrading of open and controlled dumps pursuant to Section 37 of the Act;

d) Public participation and IEC campaign

1. Venues for public participation form all sectors at all phases/stages of the waste management program/project;
2. Information and education campaign strategies.

e) Aspects for standardization and measuring performance

1. A description of levels of performance and appropriate methods and degrees of control that provide, at the minimum, for protection of public health and welfare through:
   i) Protection of the quality of groundwater and surface waters from leachate and run-off contamination;
   ii) Disease and epidemic prevention and control;
   iii) Prevention and control of offensive odor; and
   iv) Safety and aesthetics.
2. Minimum criteria to be used by the local government units to define ecological solid waste management practices. As much as practicable, such guidelines shall also include minimum information for use in deciding the adequate location, design and construction of facilities associated with solid waste management practices, including the consideration of regional, geographic, demographic and climatic factors; and
3. The method and procedure for the phase-out and the eventual closure of existing open dumps and/or sanitary landfills located within an aquifer, groundwater reservoir or watershed area.

Section 2. The Local Government Solid Waste Management Plan (LGSWMP) Formulation and Programming

The preparation of the LGSWMP shall consider the planning cycles embodied in the relevant provisions of RA7160 and shall also integrate other mandatory plans pursuant to the relevant provisions of other existing rules and regulations. Under the overall direction of the Commission, the DENR, DILG, NEDA and the various leagues of local governments, shall develop a coordinative mechanism that will ensure that LGUs are significantly guided in the preparation of LGSWMP. The Commission shall promulgate and standardize a process for LGUs to follow in having their respective LGSWMP approved.

Section 3. Components and Elements of Local Government Solid Waste Management Plans

The thrust of the LGSWMP shall be the identification of implementable strategies and activities that encourage the re-use, recycling and composting of wastes generated in their respective jurisdictions with specific schedules and timetables, targets and measurable indicators of achievements. Subject to the guidelines that will be subsequently issued by the Commission, the preparation of the Local Solid Waste Management Plans shall reflect, among others, the components enumerated under Section 17 of the Act which is enumerated below. The Commission, through the Secretariat and the DILG shall develop a coordinative mechanism that will assist the appropriate units/offices of LGUs tasked to develop their respective solid waste management plans.

a) Background Information

1. City or Municipal Profile – The plan shall indicate the following background information on the city or municipality and its component barangays, covering important highlights of the distinct geographic and other conditions:
   i) Estimated population of each barangay within the city or municipality and population projection for a 10-year period;
   ii) Illustration or map of the city/municipality, indicating locations of residential, commercial, and industrial centers, and agricultural area, as well as dump sites, landfills and other solid waste facilities. The illustration shall indicate as well, the proposed sites for disposal and other solid waste facilities;
   iii) Estimated solid waste generation and projection by source, such as residential, market, commercial, industrial, construction/demolition, street waste, agricultural, agro-industrial, institutional, other wastes; and
   iv) Inventory of existing waste disposal and other solid waste facilities and capacities; including an inventory of existing equipment used for collection and the number of people involved in solid waste management, in order that the budget required to implement plans and cost estimations, be calculated.

b) Waste Characterization

For the initial source reduction and recycling element of a local waste management plan, the LGU waste characterization component shall identify the constituent materials which comprise the solid waste generated within the jurisdiction of the LGU. The information shall be representative of the solid waste generated and disposed of within that area. The constituent materials shall be identified by volume, percentage in weight or its volumetric equivalent, material type, and source of generation, which includes residential, commercial, industrial governmental, or other sources. Future revisions of waste characterization studies shall identify the constituent materials, which comprise the solid waste, disposed of at permitted disposal facilities. Appendix A sets the general guide in the conduct of waste characterization.

c) Source Reduction

The source reduction component shall include a program and implementation schedule which shows the methods by which the LGU will, in combination with the recycling and composting components, reduce a sufficient amount of solid waste disposed of in accordance with the diversion requirements of Section 20 of the Act.

The source reduction component shall describe the following:

1. strategies in reducing the volume of solid waste generated at source;
2. measures for implementing such strategies and the resources necessary to carry out such activities;
3. other appropriate waste reduction technologies that may also be considered, provided that such technologies conform with the standards set pursuant to this Act;
4. the types of wastes to be reduced pursuant to Section 15 of this Act;
5. the methods that the LGU will use to determine the categories of solid wastes to be diverted from disposal at a disposal facility through re-use, recycling and composting; and
6. new facilities and of expansion of existing facilities which will be needed to implement re-use, recycling and composting.

The LGU source reduction component shall include the evaluation and identification of rate structures and fees for the purpose of reducing the amount of waste generated, and other source reduction strategies, including but not limited to, programs and economic incentives provided under Section 45 of the Act to reduce and use of non-recyclable materials, replace disposable materials and products with reusable materials and products, reduce packaging, and increase the efficiency of the use of paper, cardboard, glass, metal, and other materials. The waste reduction activities of the community shall also take into account, among others, local capability, economic viability, technical requirements, social concerns, disposition of residual waste and environmental impact. Projection of future facilities needed and estimated cost shall be also incorporated in the plan.

d) Recycling

The recycling component shall include a program and implementation schedule which shows the methods by which the LGU shall, in combination with the source reduction and composting components, reduce a sufficient amount of solid waste disposed of in accordance with the diversion requirements set in Section 20 of the Act and Section 7 Rule VII of these IRR..

The LGU recycling component shall describe the following:

1. The types of materials to be recycled under the programs;
2. The methods for determining the categories of solid wastes to be diverted from disposal at a disposal facility through recycling; and
3. New facilities and expansion of existing facilities needed to implement the recycling component.

The LGU recycling component shall describe methods for developing the markets for recycled materials, including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the feasibility of procurement preferences for the purchase of recycled products. Each LGU may determine and grant a price preference to encourage the purchase of recycled products.

The five-year strategy for collecting, processing, marketing and selling the designated recyclable materials shall take into account persons engaged in the business of recycling or persons otherwise providing recycling services before the effectivity of the Act. Such strategy may be based upon the results of the waste composition analysis performed pursuant to this Section or information obtained in the course of past collection of solid waste by the local government unit, and may include recommendations with respect to increasing the number of materials designated for recycling pursuant to the Act.

The LGU recycling component shall evaluate industrial, commercial, residential, agricultural, governmental, and other curbside, mobile, drop-off, and buy-back recycling programs, manual and automated materials recovery facilities, zoning, building code changes and rate structures which encourage recycling of materials. The Solid Waste Management Plan shall indicate the specific measures to be undertaken to meet the waste diversion specified under Section 20 of the Act and Section 7 Rule VII of these IRR.

Recommended revisions to the building ordinances, requiring newly-constructed buildings and buildings undergoing specified alterations to contain storage space, devices or mechanisms that facilitate source separation and storage of designated recyclable materials to enable the local government unit to efficiently collect, process, market and sell the designated materials. Such recommendations shall include, but shall not be limited to separate chutes to facilitate source separation in multi-family dwellings, storage areas that conform to fire and safety code regulations, and specialized storage containers.

The Solid Waste Management Plan shall indicate the specific measures to be undertaken to meet the recycling goals pursuant to the objectives of the Act.

e) Composting

The composting component shall include a program and implementation schedule which shows the methods by which the LGU shall, in combination with the source reduction and recycling components, reduce a sufficient amount of solid waste disposed of within its jurisdiction to comply with the diversion requirements of Section 20 of the Act and Section 7 Rule VII of these IRR.

The LGU composting components shall describe the following:

1. The types of materials which will be composted under the programs;
2. The methods for determining the categories of solid wastes to be diverted from disposal at a disposal facility through composting; and
3. New facilities, and expansion of existing facilities needed to implement the composting component.

The LGU composting component shall describe methods for developing the markets for composted materials, including, but not limited to, an evaluation of the feasibility of procurement preferences for purchase of composted products. Each LGU may determine and grant a price preference to encourage the purchase of composted products.

f) Collection and Transfer

The plan shall take into account the geographic subdivisions to define the coverage of the solid waste collection area in every barangay. The barangay shall be responsible for ensuring that a 100% collection efficiency from residential, commercial, industrial and agricultural sources, where necessary within its area of coverage, is achieved. Toward this end, the plan shall define and identify the specific strategies and activities to be undertaken by its component barangays, taking into account the following concerns:

1. Availability and provision of properly designed containers or receptacles in selected collection points for the temporary storage of solid waste while awaiting collection and transfer to processing sites or to final disposal sites;
2. Segregation of different types of solid waste for re-use, recycling and composting;
3. Hauling and transfer of solid waste from source or collection points to processing sites or final disposal sites;
4. Issuance and enforcement of ordinances to effectively implement a collection system in the barangay; and
5. Provision of properly trained officers and workers to handle solid waste disposal.

The plan shall define and specify the methods and systems for the transfer of solid waste from specific collection points to solid waste management facilities.

g) Processing

The plan shall define the methods and the facilities required to process the solid waste, including the use of intermediate treatment facilities for composting, recycling, conversion and other waste processing systems. Other appropriate waste processing technologies may also be considered provided that such technologies conform with internationally acceptable and other standards set in other laws and regulations.

h) Solid Waste Facility Capacity and Final Disposal

The solid waste facility component shall include, but shall not be limited to, a projection of the amount of disposal capacity needed to accommodate the solid waste generated, reduced by the following:

1. Implementation of source reduction, recycling, and composting programs required in this Section or through implementation of other waste diversion activities;
2. Any permitted dispo[illegible] facility which will be available during the 10-year planning perio[illegible]d
3. All disposal capacity which has been secured through an agreement with another LGU, or through an agreement with a solid waste enterprise.

The plan shall identify existing and proposed disposal sites and waste management facilities in the city or municipality or in other areas. The plan shall specify the strategies for the efficient disposal of waste through existing disposal facilities and the identification of prospective sites for future use. The selection and development of disposal sites shall be made on the basis of internationally accepted standards and on the guidelines set in Sections 41 and 42 of the Act.

Strategies shall be included to improve said existing sites to reduce adverse impact on health and the environment, and to extend life span and capacity. The plan shall clearly define projections for future disposal site requirements and the estimated cost for these efforts.

Open dumpsites shall not be allowed as final disposal sites. If an open dumpsite is existing within the city or municipality, the plan shall make provisions for its closure or eventual phase out within the period specified under the framework and pursuant to the provisions under Section 37 of the Act. As an alternative, sanitary landfill sites shall be developed and operated as a final disposal site for solid and, eventually, residual wastes of a municipality or city or a cluster of municipalities and/or cities. Sanitary landfills shall be designed and operated in accordance with the guidelines set under Sections 40 and 41 of the Act.

i) Education and Public Information

The education and public information component shall describe how the LGU will educate and inform its citizens about the source reduction, recycling, and composting programs.

The plan shall make provisions to ensure that information on waste collection services, solid waste management and related health and environmental concerns are widely disseminated among the public. This shall undertaken through the print and broadcast media and other government agencies in the municipality. The DECS and the Commission on Higher Education shall ensure that waste management shall be incorporated in the curriculum of primary, secondary and college students.

j) Special Wastes

The special waste component shall include existing waste handling and disposal practices for special waste or household hazardous wastes, and the identification of current and proposed programs to ensure the proper handling, re-use, and long-term disposal of special wastes.

k) Resource Requirement and Funding

The funding component includes identification and description of project costs, revenues, and revenue sources the LGU will use to implement all components of the LGU solid waste management plan.

The plan shall likewise indicate specific projects, activities, equipment and technological requirements for which outside sourcing of funds or materials may be necessary to carry out the specific components of the plan. It shall define the specific uses for its resource requirements and indicate its costs. The plan shall likewise indicate how the province, city or municipality intends to generate the funds for the acquisition of its resource requirements. It shall also indicate if certain resource requirements are being or will be sourced from fees, grants, donations, local funding and other means. This will serve as basis for the determination and assessment of incentives which may be extended to the province, city or municipality as provided for in Section 45 of the Act.

l) Privatization of Solid Waste Management Projects

The plan shall likewise indicate specific measures to promote the participation of the private sector in the management of solid wastes, particularly in the generation and development of the essential technologies for solid waste management. Specific projects or component activities of the plan which may be offered as private sector investment activity shall be identified and promoted as such. Appropriate incentives for private sector involvement in solid waste management shall likewise be established and provided for in the plan, in consonance with Section 45 hereof and other existing laws, policies and regulations; and

m) Incentive Programs

A program providing for incentives, cash or other wise, which shall encourage the participation of concerned sectors shall likewise be included in the plan.

Section 4. Considerations of local government SWM Plans prior to the Act's effectivity

Acknowledging that a number of LGUs have initiated efforts in preparing their respective solid waste management plan, prior to the effectivity of the Act, these efforts shall be recognized as works complying with the pertinent provisions of the Act; provided that, earlier developed plans shall be made consistent with the elements prescribed in Section 3 under Rule VII of this rules and regulations. Said plan upon its validation and adjustments shall be subject to approval by the Commission.

Section 5. Clustering of Common Solid Waste Management Problems

The Department shall publish guidelines for the identification of areas which have common solid waste management problems and are appropriate units for clustered solid waste management services. The guidelines shall be based on the following considerations:

a) the size and location of areas which should be included;
b) the volume of solid waste which would be generated;
c) the available means of coordinating local government planning between and among the LGUs and for the integration of such with the national plan;
d) possible lifespan of the disposal facilities; and
e) common waste treatment and disposal facilities

The Commission shall recommend to concerned local government units to consolidate and coordinate efforts, services and resources for jointly addressing solid waste management issues. Furthermore, technical guidelines, criteria for joint activities and projects, and a set of incentive systems for LGUs opting to consolidate efforts by jointly planning and implementing a comprehensive SWM programs for their respective areas of jurisdictions shall be subsequently specified and regularly updated by the Department.

Mandatory public hearings for the national framework and local government solid waste management plans shall be undertaken by the Commission and the respective Boards. Provided that, the Commission and respective Boards ensure that at least three (3) weeks notice, prior to the hearing is given to the public. Such notice shall include an explanation of the hearing process, location, and any other factor, either the Commission or respective Boards consider relevant.

The Commission shall formulate standard rules and procedures for the conduct of public hearings. However, each hearing shall be of a substantive nature. It shall include more than just a description of the National Framework and local government solid waste management plans, by the Commission and respective Boards.

Every citizen shall be given the right and opportunity to comment on the Framework, and solid waste management plans, preferably in writing.

All records of the proceedings of said hearings shall be filed with the Commission and the respective boards; and that they shall be readily available and accessible to the public. The Commission and respective boards shall formulate their decision whether to adopt, reject or revise the reviewed plans on the basis of materials and information, provided their knowledge and experience, in addition to the materials adduced in public hearings.

Section 7. Establishing Mandatory Solid Waste Diversion

Each LGUSWM plans shall include an implementable schedule which shows that within five (5) years after the effectivity of the Act, the LGU shall divert at least 25% of all solid waste from waste disposal facilities through re-use, recycling and composting activities and other resource recovery activities. The baseline for the 25% shall be derived from the waste characterization results which each LGUs are mandated to undertake. Subsequently the waste diversion goals shall be increased every three (3) years thereafter. Nothing in this IRR however, prohibits a local government unit from implementing re-use, recycling and composting activities designed to exceed the 25% goal.

RULE VIII. IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Section 1. Overall Policy

It shall be the overall policy of the Department to strictly implement the provisions of the Rules and Regulations of the Act. The implementation of the ecological solid waste management shall fundamentally take into account the management of waste in the following hierarchy:

a) Source reduction and minimization of wastes generated at source;
b) Resource recovery, recycling and reuse of wastes at the barangay;
c) Efficient collection, proper transfer and transport of wastes by city/municipality; and
d) Efficient management of residuals and of final disposal sites and/or any other related technologies for the destruction/reuse of residuals.

Section 2. Implementation of the Ecological Solid Waste Management Systems

The Local Government Code, the LGUs shall be primarily responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the ecological solid waste management systems within their respective jurisdictions.

Waste segregation and collection shall be conducted at the barangay level specifically for biodegradable/compostable and reusable/recyclable wastes. The collection and disposal of non-recyclable/non-recoverable materials and special wastes shall be the responsibility of the city or municipality.

RULE IX. WASTE SEGREGATION AT SOURCE

Section 1. Waste Segregation and Volume Reduction at Source

Volume reduction at the source shall be the first priority of the ecological SWM system. All LGUs shall actively promote among its constituencies the reduction and minimization of wastes generated at source; responsibility for sorting and segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes shall be at the household level and all other sources.

Section 2. Minimum Requirements for Segregation and Volume Reduction

The following shall be the minimum requirements for segregation and storage of solid waste pending collection:

a) There shall be a separate container for each type of waste from all sources. For bulky waste, it will suffice that the same be collected and placed in a separate container and in designated areas;
b) The solid waste container depending on its use shall be properly marked or identified for on-site collection as "compostable," "recyclable" or "special waste," or any other classification as may be determined by the Commission; and
c) For premises containing six (6) or more residential units, the LGUs shall promulgate ordinances and regulations requiring the owner or person in charge of such premises to:
    1. Provide for the residents a designated area and containers in which to accumulate source separated recyclable materials to be collected by the barangay or private collector; and
    2. Notify the occupants of such buildings of the requirements of the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto.
d) For all commercial, institutional and industrial establishments, the LGUs shall promulgate ordinances requiring the owner or head of the institutions to:
    1. Provide a designated area and containers in which to accumulate source separated recyclable materials to be collected by the barangay or private collector;
    2. Notify all workers, employees, and entities working in the premises of the requirements of the Act and the regulations promulgated pursuant thereto; and
    3. No scavenging or unauthorized collection in designated segregation containers or areas shall be allowed.

RULE X. COLLECTION, TRANSPORT AND HANDLING OF SOLID WASTES

Section 1. Minimum standards for the collection, transport and handling of Solid Wastes

The following shall be the minimum standards and requirements for the collection, transport and handling of solid waste:

a) All collectors and other personnel directly dealing with collection of solid waste shall be equipped with personal protective equipment and paraphernalia such as, but not limited to gloves, masks and safety boots, to protect them from the hazards of handling solid wastes.
b) The City or Municipal Health Officer shall provide necessary training to the collectors and personnel too ensure that the solid wastes are handled properly in accordance with the guidelines pursuant to the Act. The Commission through the National Ecology Center, in coordination with the DOH shall develop training guidelines.
c) Collection of solid waste shall be done in a manner that prevents damage to the container and spillage or scattering of solid waste within the collection vicinity.
d) The equipment used in the collection and transportation of solid waste (or materials which have been separated for the purpose of recycling) shall be constructed, operated and maintained in such a manner as to minimize health and safety hazards to solid waste management personnel and the public.
e) Equipment shall be maintained in good condition and kept clean to prevent the propagation or attraction of vectors and the creation of nuisances.
f) The use of separate collection schedules and/or separate trucks or haulers shall be required for specific types of wastes. Otherwise, vehicles used for the collection and transport of solid wastes shall have the appropriate compartments to facilitate efficient storing of sorted wastes while in transit. The waste compartment shall have a cover to ensure the containment of solid wastes while in transit.
g) Vehicles shall be designed to consider road size, condition and capacity to ensure the safe and efficient collection and transport of solid wastes.
h) For the purpose of identification, vehicles shall bear the body number, the name, and telephone number of the contractor/agency collecting solid waste.

Section 2. Minimum Requirements for Establishing and Operating Transfer Stations

Transfer stations shall be designed and operated for efficient waste handling capacity and in compliance with environmental standards and guidelines set pursuant to the Act, these IRRs and other regulations. In addition the design and operation of transfer stations shall conform to the following standards and criteria:

a) Leachate and Drainage Control – Facilities shall be designed such that waste shall not come into contact with run-off and to prevent the generation of leachate.
b) Provisions for vector, odor, litter and dust control shall be included.
c) The siting of the transfer station shall consider the land use plan, proximity of collection area, and accessibility of haul routes to disposal facility. The design shall give primary consideration to size and space sufficiency in order to accommodate the storage of waste, and vehicles for the loading and unloading of wastes.
d) The following records shall be kept and maintained, such records shall be submitted to the Department upon request:
    1. Record of daily weights or volumes of waste received and transferred accurate to within ten percent (10%) and adequate for overall planning purposes and tracking of waste volumes
    2. Daily logbook or file of the following information shall be maintained: fires, special occurrences, unauthorized loads, injury and property damage
e) Waste shall be removed from the transfer station within twenty-four (24) hours of its receipt.

RULE XI. MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITIES AND COMPOSTING

Section 1. Operations of a Materials Recovery Facility

Barangays shall be responsible for the collection, segregation, recycling of biodegradable, recyclable, compostable and reusable wastes. MRFs will be established in every barangay or cluster of barangays.

The facility shall be established in a barangay-owned or leased land or any suitable open space to be determined by the barangay through its Sanggunian. For this purpose, the barangay or cluster of barangays shall allocate a certain parcel of land for the MRF. The determination of site and actual establishment of the facility shall likewise be subject.

The MRF shall receive biodegradable wastes for composting and mixed non-biodegradable wastes for final segregation, re-use and recycling. Provided, that each type of mixed waste is collected from the source and transported to the MRF in separate containers.

The resulting residual wastes shall then be transferred to a long-term storage or disposal facility or sanitary landfill.

Materials recovery facilities shall be designed to receive, sort, process and store compostable and recyclable material efficiently and in an environmentally sound manner. The facility shall address the following considerations:

a) The building and/or land layout and equipment must be designed to accommodate efficient and safe materials processing, movement and storage;
b) The building must be designed to allow efficient and safe external access and to accommodate internal flow;
c) If the MRF includes a composting operation, it shall comply with the provisions of Section 2 and of Rule XI of this IRR applicable to composting and composts;
d) The following records shall be kept and maintained, such records shall be submitted to the Department upon request:
    1) Record of daily weights or volumes of waste received, processed and removed from site accurate to within ten percent (10%) and adequate for overall planning purposes and tracking of success of waste diversion goals; and
    2) Daily logbook or file of the following information shall be maintained: fire, special occurrences, unauthorized loads, injury and property damage

Section 2. Guidelines for Compost Quality

Organic fertilizers derived from compost and intended to be distributed commercially shall conform with the standards for organic fertilizers set by the Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority of the Department of Agriculture. Compost products intended for commercial or non-commercial distribution shall be free from hazardous/toxic constituent above permissible levels, and shall be tested for such constituents using the Toxicity Characteristic Leaching Procedure (TCLP) test method developed by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA).

Section 3. Inventory of Markets for Composts

Within six (6) months after the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall publish an inventory of existing markets and demands for composts. Said inventory shall thereafter be updated and published annually: Provided that composting of agricultural wastes, and other compostable materials, including but not limited to garden wastes, shall be encouraged.

Section 4. Minimum Requisites for Operating Composting Facilities

Composting facilities shall conform to the following siting, design and operating standards and criteria:

a) The Facility shall not be sited in areas subject to frequent flooding, unless engineering controls are provided in the design to prevent inundation of the facility.
b) Leachate and Drainage Control
    1. Facilities shall be designed such that compost piles, windrows, residues and processed material will not come in contact with surface storm run-off.
    2. Where excess leachate storage is provided, discharge of leachate into any body of water is prohibited unless such discharge meets the limits prescribed by the DENR standards for effluents. Where leachate needs to be stored, it shall comply with the provisions of Section 1(k) of Rule XIV of this IRR. Provisions shall be made such that leachate is re-circulated back into compost piles or windrows as much as possible.
c) Provisions for vector, odor, litter and dust control shall be included
d) Records keeping shall be maintained at all times in accordance with Section 2(b) of Rule XIV of this IRR.
e) Residues shall be managed as solid waste and shall be disposed of as such.
f) Temperatures of compost piles, curing piles and processed composts shall be maintained in safe levels to prevent spontaneous combustion.
g) Aerobic conditions shall be maintained to prevent creation of dangerous gases such as methane.

Provided that, individual household backyard composting shall be exempted from the provisions of Section.

All technical reports, technical documents, plans and specifications pertaining to the engineering of the facility and other waste management facilities shall be certified based on EMB requirements.

RULE XII. IMPLEMENTING A RECYCLING PROGRAM

Section 1. Formulating a Recycling Program (Eco-labeling, Reclamation, Buy Back Mechanism)

The DTI shall, in cooperation with the Department, DILG/LGUs, sectors practicing recycling and other concerned agencies, shall undertake a study of existing markets for processing and purchasing recyclable materials, and the potential steps necessary to expand these markets.

When developing the market for recycled goods, an investigation of markets should be made for each recyclable material, as defined in the Act, by the Commission, DTI, DOF and the NEC, and should include at a minimum:

a) identifying potential purchasers of the recovered material through standard market research techniques;
b) directly contacting buyers and determining the buyers quality specifications, potential transportation agreements and any minimum quantity criteria.

All information from the investigation of markets, including a list of prospective buyers of recycled products, and a list of procedures, standards and strategies to market recyclable materials and develop local markets, shall be easily accessible by the public, through the solid waste management information database, formulated by the National Ecology Center.

Section 2. Environmentally Preferable Purchasing

The Commission, DTI, DOF, NPS and the NEC, shall encourage national and local governments to purchase environmentally preferable products and services.

All government personnel shall seek to reduce the environmental damages associated with their purchases by increasing their acquisition of environmentally preferable products and services to the extent feasible, consistent with price, performance, availability and safety considerations.

Responsibility for environmentally preferable purchasing shall be shared among the program, acquisition and procurement personnel of government agencies.

The principles of pollution prevention, life cycle perspective/multiple environmental attributes, comparison of environmental impacts – recovery time and geographic scale, differences among competing products' environmental performance and human health shall all be considered in environmentally preferable purchasing.

Section 3. Specifications, Product Descriptions and Standards

It shall be the responsibility of the DTI to conduct a study into product standards for recyclable and recycled materials. Such a study shall consider and include, through not be limited to any existing standards on recycled and recyclable products and existing international practices. In the formulation of such a study, DTI shall consult with affected industries and other concerned agencies; provided that, the results of such a study and any subsequent guidelines or standards formulated, shall be easily accessible to the public through the NEC database.

Section 4. Eco-labeling

The Department of Trade and Industry – Bureau of Product Standards (DTI-BPS) shall formulate and implement a coding system for packaging materials and products to facilitate waste recycling and re-use. The coding system shall initially be based on ISO 14020 series standards, particularly, ISO standard 14024, "Environmental Labeling – Practitioner Programs – Guiding Principles, Practices and Certification Procedures of Multiple Criteria (type 1) Programs', with criteria to be determined on the basis of life cycle assessment of the product group.

The criteria shall be regularly reviewed to ensure their appropriateness and currency in light of scientific and technical progress, and of the experience gained in this area, and to ensure consistency with relevant, internationally recognized standards.

DTI shall clarify the principles for establishing the effectivity level of the eco-label, in order to facilitate consistent and effective implementation of the scheme.

The eco-label shall include simple, accurate, non-deceptive and scientifically based information on the key environmental aspects which are considered in the award of the label in order to enable consumers to make informed choices. Provided DTI shall make relevant information about the attributes of the products available to purchasers, and that information on the process and methodologies used in the eco-labeling process, shall be available to all interested parties.

Section 5. Non-Environmentally Acceptable Products

The Commission should decide which products or packaging are non-environmentally acceptable. Provided, that this criteria is regularly reviewed to ensure its appropriateness and currency, in light of scientific and technical progress, and of the experience gained in this area.

Prohibiting non-environmentally acceptable products, any decision to prohibit certain packaging types and products must be supported by available scientific, environmental, technical and economic information and technical studies through, but not limited to life cycle assessment and economic analysis. Provided that the Commission consults representatives from affected industries and subject to public notice and hearing.

Further, in making such decisions, the Commission shall make every effort to reach agreement by consensus. If all efforts at consensus have been exhausted, and no agreement reached, such decisions shall, as a last resort, be adopted by a two-thirds majority vote of the Commission.

Based on the assessments made, the Commission may decide:

a) which products should be added to or removed from the list of non-environmentally acceptable products;
b) the mechanism, scope and timing of the control measures that should apply to those products;
c) possible alternatives to controlled products as defined in RA 6969;
d) costs and benefits of relevant control strategies; and
e) the specific measures to be undertaken to comply with Section 29 of the Act.

The list on non-environmentally acceptable products shall be made available to the public through the solid waste management information database.

Prior to each annual revision and update of the list of non-environmentally acceptable products, the Commission shall seek information from the appropriate experts qualified in the fields mentioned and in any other field deemed necessary to the revision. Notice of the updated list will also be given to the public and affected industries and at least 60 days shall be allocated for comment of the public and affected industries. Any written comments may be submitted to the Commission.

Provided, the list of non-environmentally acceptable products and the schedule for their phase-out, shall be included in the solid waste management information database, formulated by the National Ecology Center.

Section 6. Reclamation Programs and Buy-back Centers

The NEC shall assist LGUs in establishing and implementing deposit or reclamation programs in coordination with manufacturers, recyclers and generators to provide separate collection systems or convenient drop-off locations for recyclable materials and particularly for separated toxic components of the waste stream like dry cell batteries and tires to ensure that they are not incinerated or disposed of in landfill.

In assisting LGUs in the establishment of buyback centers and reclamation programs, the NEC shall conduct a detailed study on feasible reclamation programs and buyback centers. The NEC shall also assist in implementing such programs and centers, by cooperating with respective LGUs in the formulation of related ordinances.

RULE XIII OPERATIONS OF CONTROLLED DUMPSITES

Section 1. Controlling the Operation of Open Dumpsites

No open dumpsites shall be established and operated by any person or entities, including the LGUs, will be allowed. Within three (3) years following the effectivity of the Act, all open dumpsites shall be converted to controlled dumpsites to operate only within five (5) years and beyond the said period shall consider these facilities as deemed closed and phased out. The Commission through the Department shall issue subsequent guidelines that will classify controlled dumpsites according to the following considerations:

a) Volume of wastes received;
b) Types and character of wastes received; and
c) Cost requirements for operating the facilities.

Section 2. Minimum Requirements for Operation of Controlled Dumpsites

The following minimum requirements shall be applied in siting, designing and operation of controlled dumpsites:

a) Daily cover consisting of inert materials or soil of at least 6 inches in thickness shall be applied at the end of the working day; where there is a lack of onsite soil material, other alternative materials may be used subject to the prior written approval of the enforcement authority and the Department;
b) Drainage and runoff control shall be designed and managed such that storm water does not come in contact with waste and that discharge of sediments into the receiving body of water is minimized. Appropriate erosion protection shall be installed at storm discharge outfalls;
c) Provision for aerobic and anaerobic decomposition shall be instituted to control odor;
d) Working areas shall be minimized and kept at no more than a ratio of 1.5 square meter (sqm) or less per ton/day (tpd) of waste received on a daily basis, e.g. 30 sqm working area for a 20 tpd facility;
e) Security fencing shall be provided to prevent illegal entries, trespassing and large animal entries. Large animals shall include but not limited to adult domesticated or feral animals such as dogs, cats, cattle, pigs, carabaos and horses. Provisions for litter control including the use of litter fences and daily picking of litter shall be included;
f) Basic record keeping including volume of waste received daily, special occurrences such as fires, accidents, spills, unauthorized loads (maintain record of unauthorized and rejected loads, name and address of hauler and generator of such unauthorized waste), and daily waste inspection logs;
g) Provision of maintained all-weather access roads;
h) Controlled waste picking and trading, if allowed by owner/operator, in order to facilitate daily covering and compliance to Subsections (a) through (e) above;
i) Provision of at least 0.60 m final soil cover at closure, and post-closure maintenance of cover, drainage and vegetation; Post-closure maintenance shall be for a period of ten (10) years;
j) Site shall not be located in flood plains and areas subject to periodic flooding and it shall be hydro-geologically suitable, i.e., adequate separation or clearance between waste and underlying groundwater and any surface body of water shall be provided. Engineering controls shall be provided otherwise.
k) Open dumpsites that do not comply with siting requirements of this Section shall be closed immediately. A replacement facility shall be, at a minimum, a controlled dump and shall meet the requirements of Rule XIII, and other applicable provisions of the IRR

RULE XIV OPERATIONS OF SANITARY LANDFILLS

Section 1. Minimum Considerations for Siting and Designing Sanitary Landfills

The following guidelines, standards and criteria shall be applied in siting and designing sanitary landfills:

a) The location of the facility shall be consistent with the overall land use plan of the LGU.
b) The site shall be accessible from major roadways and thoroughfares, provided that if it is not accessible, the project design shall include means of access.
c) The site shall have an adequate quantity of earth cover material that is easily handled and compacted; as an alternative, an offsite guaranteed source of cover material shall be identified.
d) If the site is located within two (2) kilometers of an airport runway, it shall not pose a bird hazard to aircraft. The Owner/Operator shall institute a bird control program so as to prevent hazards to aircraft if bird population becomes significant due to the operation of the landfill. The site shall comply with other requirements for safety of flying aircraft in terms of height of structures, such ass provisions for obstruction lights, if required.
e) Locations of public water supply intakes located within one (1) kilometer from the facility, including active public drinking water supply wells, shall be shown on a facility map.
f) The facility shall not be constructed within 75 meters from a Holocene fault or known recent active fault.
g) If significant archaeological and cultural resources are present at the site, such resources shall be protected and preserved.
h) If the site is a habitat of listed endangered species, mitigation measures for protection of the species as required by applicable laws shall be included in the project proposal.
i) The site shall be chosen with regard to the sensitivities of the community's residents. The Sangguniang Bayan/Lungsod of the host LGU shall adopt a resolution confirming compliance with the pertinent siting, design criteria and standards. The resolution shall be deemed as having fully satisfied the public sensitivity requirement of this section.
j) Except as provided by Section (m) of Rule XIV, for landfills located in sensitive resources areas, landfills shall be provided with a base liner system consisting of clay and/or geosynthetic membranes (geomembrane). If clay is used, it shall have a minimum thickness of 0.75m and permeability of $1x10^{-6}$ cm/sec or less. Geomembranes shall be at least 1.5 mm thick with a permeability of $1x10^{-14}$ cm/sec or less; Geosynthetic Clay Liners (GCL) shall have a thickness of at least 6.4 mm and a permeability of $1x10^{-9}$ cm/sec or less. If composite liner is used (clay under geo-membrane), the thickness of the clay liner may be reduced to 0.60 m. The overlying geomembrane shall have the same properties as stated above. In the design of geosynthetic liners, international standards (e.g. Geosynthetic Research Institute, or applicable ASTM standards) shall be used for its design and specifications in terms of properties, manufacturing and construction quality assurance and testing procedures.
k) Leachate collection and removal system shall be provided and designed such that leachate buildup in the landfill will be minimized. For design purposes, an allowable leachate level of not more than 0.60 meter over the liner system shall be maintained. If leachate is discharged to a receiving body of water, the discharge shall meet effluent discharge and water quality criteria prescribed by DENR.
l) Leachate storage facilities shall be designed with containment systems to prevent leachate from spillage and its migration into underlying groundwater or nearby surface body of water. For leachate impoundment ponds, the design shall include a geomembrane liner system, underlain by a low permeability soil layer of at least 0.30 m thick. The geomembrane liner shall be at least 1.5 mm thick with a permeability of $1x10^{-14}$ cm/sec or less; Liner specifications, CQA and engineering certification requirements shall be per provisions of Section 1m of Rule XIV. Adequate freeboard including allowance for rainfall volume and other safeguards shall be provided to prevent pond overflowing.
m) The site shall be located in an area where the landfill's operation will not detrimentally affect environmentally sensitive resources such as aquifers, groundwater reservoir or watershed area, by provision of the following special mitigation measures and additional criteria:

1. The facility shall be a minimum 50 meters away from any perennial stream, lake or river.
2. The site shall be evaluated for presence of geologic hazards, faults, unstable soils, its foundation stability, and its hydrogeologic character. The site shall not be located in a floodplain.
3. It shall be provided with a composite base liner system consisting of a minimum 1.5 millimeter (mm) thick high density polyethylene liner (HDPE) underlain by a soil liner with a minimum thickness to 0.60 meter (m) and maximum permeability of $1x10^{-6}$ centimeter/second (cm/sec).
4. A Geosynthetic Clay Liner (GCL) with a minimum thickness of 6.4 mm and permeability of $1x10^{-9}$ cm/sec or less, may be substituted for the soil liner. Likewise, the design of the final cap shall be equivalent to its liner system in terms of permeability. The thickness of the final cover system shall be at least 1.5 m including a minimum 0.60 m thick soil foundation layer, its final cap, a drainage layer, and a vegetative layer of at least 0.30 m thick. If the thickness of the equivalent final cap makes the entire cover system less than 1.5 m thick, the deficiency shall be made up by increasing the thickness of the foundation layer.
5. Strict liner and final cap construction quality assurance (CQA) and testing shall be performed by a third party experienced in earthwork, clay and geosynthetic liner installation, quality assurance supervision, testing and inspection. The lead CQA person, as a minimum qualification or experience, must have supervised the installation of at least 100,0000 square meters each of clay and geosynthetic liner system; the CQA person or firm shall submit a construction completion report within 60 days of liner or final cap construction completion to the Department, certifying that construction of each liner system was performed and completed in accordance with its plans and specifications. The CQA report shall be certified by a registered Civil or Geotechnical Engineer or other registered Engineer, provided that the certifying Engineer shall have at least designed or supervised the installation of soil and geosynthetic liners of quantities similar to those of the lead CQA person.

n) The design of the landfill shall be statically stable and shall be able to withstand the effects of a ground acceleration generated by an earthquake of 100-year or more recurrence interval.
o) A separation of at least two (2.0) meters shall be maintained between the top of the liner system and underlying groundwater.
p) A temporary impoundment for drainage runoff shall be provided with a detention time sufficient for sediment removal and/or reduction, prior to its discharge.
q) The site shall be large enough to accommodate the community's waste for a period of five (5) years or more during which people must internalize the value of environmentally sound and sustainable waste disposal.
r) The site chosen shall facilitate developing a landfill that will satisfy budgetary constraints, including site development, operation for many years, closure and post-closure care and possible remediation costs.
s) Operating plans shall include provisions for coordinating with recycling and resource recovery projects.
t) Designation of a separate containment area for household hazardous wastes.
u) A gas control system shall be provided when the volume of waste in the landfill has reached 0.5 million metric tons. The owner/operator shall consider recovery and conversion of methane gas into usable energy if economically viable. Prior to installation of gas control facilities, perimeter boundary gas monitoring shall be performed in accordance with Section 2(b) of Rule XIV.
v) Groundwater monitoring wells shall be placed at appropriate locations and depth for taking water samples that are representative of groundwater quality and for predicting groundwater flow.
w) Cover shall consist of a daily soil cover at least 6 inches in thickness applied at the end of each workday. Alternative Daily Cover (ADC), maybe used provided that the owner/operator can demonstrate to the Department in writing, the equivalency of the proposs4ed ADC in controlling infiltration, vector, odor and litter based on technical research or studies. In areas within the landfill that will not be used for at least 180 days, an additional interim soil cover of 6 inches thick shall be placed over the existing daily cover. The final cover shall consist of, from bottom to top, the foundation layer (consisting of 0.60m thick soil layer including interim cover), a final cap with an equivalent permeability as that of its liner system,. A drainage layer and a vegetative layer. Installation of final cover shall be completed within sic (6) months from the last receipt of waste.
x) Closure of the landfill shall be completed within one year of cessation of landfill operation.
y) Post-closure care shall be for a period of fifteen (15) years. DENR shall establish post-closure guidelines and requirements for financial assurance mechanisms within one year.
z) Small facility exemption from specific standards of this Section. The DENR will establish criteria for exemption within one (1) year from approval of the IRR.
aa) All technical reports, technical documents, plans and specifications pertaining to the engineering of the facility shall be certified and sealed by a licensed Engineer with relevant experience and expertise.

Section 2. Minimum Considerations for Operating Sanitary Landfills

In the operation of sanitary landfills, each site operator shall maintain the following minimum operating requirements:

a) Disposal site records of, but not limited to:

1. Records of weights or volumes accepted in a form and manner approved by the Department. Such records shall be submitted to the Department upon request, accurate to within ten percent (10%) and adequate for overall planning purposes and forecasting the rate of site filling;
2. Records of excavations which may affect the safe and proper operation of the site or cause damage to adjoining properties;
3. Daily logbook or file of the following information: fire, landslides, earthquake damage, unusual and sudden settlement, injury and property damage, accidents, explosions, receipt or rejection of non-permitted wastes, flooding and other unusual occurrences;
4. Record of personnel training; and
5. Copy of written notification to the Department, local health agency, and fire authority of names, addresses and telephone numbers of the operator or responsible party of the site.

b) Water quality monitoring of surface and ground waters and effluent, and gas emissions shall be performed in frequencies prescribed by the Department on a project by project basis; Parameters for groundwater, effluent and surface waters shall be as prescribed by the Department in the facility's permit. For landfills sited under Section 1m of Rule XIV of this IRR, groundwater, perimeter gas monitoring and receiving surface water monitoring shall be on a quarterly basis and treated leachate effluent discharge shall be monitored for pH, 5-day Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD5) and Total Suspended Solids (TSS) concentrations on a weekly basis or when discharged if discharge is not on a daily basis, and shall not exceed limits prescribed by the Department according to the classification of the receiving body of water. Other parameters to be monitored and their respective frequencies shall be in accordance with the facility's permit. Owners/Operators of Section 1m of Rule XIV facilities shall submit monitoring and inspection reports on a quarterly basis to the designated enforcement authority with a copy furnished to the Department and other relevant agencies. The report shall be certified as to its correctness and accuracy by the owner/operator or his designated (in writing) representative. For other facilities, reporting frequencies shall be specified by the Department but in no case will it be more frequent than quarterly basis unless the facility is in a state of verification/assessment monitoring.
c) Groundwater Sampling Protocol – The DENR shall establish requirements and guidelines within one year from approval of this IRR.
d) Background Groundwater quality Monitoring Statistical Data Evaluation and Establishment of Concentration Limits for contaminant Indicators – The DENR shall establish requirements and guidelines within one year from approval of IRR.
e) Detection Groundwater Monitoring Data Statistical Analysis, Verification Monitoring – The DENR shall establish requirements and guidelines within one year from approval of IRR.
f) Assessment Monitoring and Corrective Action – The DENR shall establish requirements and guidelines within one year from approval of IRR.
g) Documentation of approvals, all reports, certification, plans and specifications, as built drawings, determinations and other requirements by the Department and other pertinent and relevant documents shall be kept in the facility's operating record.
h) Signs:

1. Each point of access from a public road shall be posted with an easily visible sign indicating the facility name and other pertinent information as required by the Department;
2. If the site is open to the public, there shall be an easily visible sign at the primary entrance of the site indicating the name of the site operator, the operator's telephone number and hours of operation; and easily visible sign at an appropriate point shall indicate the schedule of charges and the general types of materials which will be accepted or not;
3. If the site is open to the public, there shall be an easily visible road sign and/or traffic control measures which direct traffic to the active face and other areas where wastes or recyclable materials will be deposited; and
4. Additional signs and/or measures may be required at a disposal site by the Department to protect personnel and public health and safety.

i) The site shall be designed to discourage unauthorized access by persons and vehicles by using a perimeter barrier or topographic constraints. Areas within the site where open storage or ponding of hazardous materials occurs shall be separately fenced or otherwise secured as determined by the Department. The Department may also require that other areas of the site to be fenced to create an appropriate level of security.
j) Roads within the permitted facility boundary shall be designed to minimize the generation of dust and the tracking of materials onto adjacent public roads. Such roads shall be kept in safe condition and maintained such that vehicle access and unloading can be conducted during inclement weather.
k) Sanitary facilities consisting of adequate number of toilets and handwashing facilities shall be available to personnel at or in the immediate vicinity of the site.
l) Safe and adequate drinking water supply for the site personnel shall be available.
m) The site shall have communication facilities available to site personnel to allow quick response to emergencies.
n) Where operations are conducted during hours of darkness, the site and/or equipment shall be equipped with adequate lighting as approved by the Department to ensure safety and to monitor the effectiveness of operations.
o) Operating and maintenance personnel shall wear and use appropriate safety equipment as required by the Department.
p) Personnel assigned to operate the site shall be adequately trained in subject pertinent to the site operation and maintenance, hazardous materials recognition and screening and heavy equipment operations, with emphasis on safety, health, environmental controls and emergency procedures. A record of such training shall be placed in the operating record.
q) The site operator shall provide adequate supervision of a sufficient number of qualified personnel to ensure proper operation of the site in compliance with all applicable laws, regulations, permit conditions and other requirements. The operator shall notify the Department and local health agency in writing of the names, addresses, and telephone number of the operator or responsible party. A copy of the written notification shall be placed in the operating record.
r) Any disposal site open to the public shall have an attendant present during public operating hours or the site shall be inspected by the operator on a regularly scheduled basis, as determined by the Department.
s) Unloading of solid wastes shall be confined to a small area as possible to accommodate the number of vehicles using the area without resulting in traffic, personnel, or public safety hazards. Waste materials shall normally be deposited at the toe of the fill, or as otherwise approved by the Department. For practical purposes, a working area shall be limited to 1.5 square meter or less per ton/day (tpd) of waste received on a daily basis, e.g. 30 sqm working area for a 20 tpd facility.
t) Solid waste shall be spread and compacted in layers with repeated passages of the landfill equipment to minimize voids within the cell and maximize compaction. The loose layer shall not exceed a depth approximately 0.60 m or two feet before compaction. Spreading and compacting shall be accomplished as rapidly as practicable, unless otherwise approved by the Department.
u) Covered surfaces of the disposal area shall be graded to promote lateral runoff of precipitation and to prevent ponding. Grades shall be established of sufficient slopes to accost for future settlement of the fill surface. Other effective maintenance methods may be allowed by the Department.
v) Cover material or native material unsuitable for cover, stockpiled on the site for use or removal, shall be placed so as not to cause problems or interfere with unloading, spreading, compacting, access, safety, drainage or other operations.

PART IV SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT FINANCING, INCENTIVES AND COST RECOVERY

RULE XV. FINANCING OF SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT INITIATIVES

Section 1. National Solid Waste Management Fund

There is hereby established a National Solid Waste Management Fund (SWMF), also known as the Fund which shall be a special account in the National Treasury, and administered by the Commission. The fund shall be a catalytic fund which shall initiate bigger and wider SWM engagements in the future. LGUs may avail of the Fund and accordingly, the Commission shall develop the scheme or guidelines for the Fund administration. Reporting on the status of such Fund shall be transparent and shall be annually published by the Commission in collaboration with the Commission on Audit, four (4) months after the end of each fiscal year.

Section 2. Sources and Use of the National SWM Fund

The Fund shall be sourced from the following:

a) Donations, endowments, grants and contributions from domestic and foreign sources.
b) Amounts specifically appropriated for the Fund under the annual General Appropriations Act.
c) Fines collected under Sec. 49 of the Act shall be allocated based on a sharing scheme between the Fund and the LGU concerned which shall be formulated by the Commission.

The Fund shall be used to support endeavors, which enhance the implementation of the Act. These shall include activities on the following:

a) Products, facilities, technologies and processes to enhance proper solid waste management
b) Awards
c) Incentives
d) Research programs
e) Information, education, communication and monitoring activities
f) Technical assistance
g) Capability building activities

Section 3. Criteria for Availing the National SWM Fund

Subject to the availability of funds, the Fund may be made available to the SWM project/activities of LGUs on the basis of a set of criteria formulated through a consultative process, duly published and copied to all LGUs. Such criteria shall be reviewed and updated as necessary. Henceforth, the criteria for availment of the Fund shall include but not be limited to the list as follows:

a) The SWM Plan of the proponent LGU from which the project/activity was designed has been duly approved by the Commission.
b) Funding request for project/activity does not exceed PHP1,500,000; provided however, the Commission Secretariat shall review the funding level every three years. Only one (1) project/activity per LGU shall be eligible for support.
c) Project/activity types under the following categories shall be considered:

1. SWM projects which shall catalyze investment from the private sector and/or other investors
2. Innovative SWM approaches
3. Prototyping SWM models

d) The LGU may avail of the SWM Fund once in every three (3) years, but not for the same project/activity
e) The LGU does not have another outside fund source for SWM tasks.
f) The LGU is committed to put in counterpart funds, the computation of which shall be provided by the Commission Secretariat per LGU classification.
g) The process for Fund availment is completed.

Section 4. Process for Availing the National SWM Fund

The Commission through the Secretariat shall prescribe a simple procedure and proforma for fund application. The Commission shall strive for a decentralized system of accepting, appraising and approving of proposals. Furthermore, report proforma as well as procedures for the handling of government fund shall be provided by the Commission. In general, the availment process shall start from the submission of a project/activity concept drawn from the SWM plan. Once the concept proposal is approved, the LGU shall submit a detailed version of the proposal for review and final decision by the Commission. Subject to a more detailed procedural guideline to be issued by the Commission the general process is described in Appendix B of these IRR.

In no case shall the Fund be used for the creation of positions or payment of salaries and wages.

Section 5. Establishment of Local SWM Fund

Barangay councils may issue council resolutions to establish ordinances for the creation of a Local Solid Waste Management Fund (also known as the Local Fund), pursuant to the relevant provisions of RA 7160. Funds for the Local fund shall be derived from the LGU collection of fines. The ordinance may vest authority in the Local SWM Board of every LGU to administer the Local Fund as a special account of the LGU, and to develop pertinent guidelines on the management of the Local Fund.

In the case of clustered LGUs, a governing Memorandum of Agreement of the cluster may be created in addition to ordinances, stipulating that the Local SWM Cluster Board shall administer the Local Fund. Moreover, stipulating that the Local SWM Cluster Board shall develop schemes to sustain the Local Fund including resource generating ventures and placing appropriate monies as Trust.

The ordinance may stipulate that reporting on the status of the Local Fund be transparent and that a report be issued annually, to the Commission or other relevant authority, by the LGU in collaboration with the Commission on Audit four (4) months after the end of each fiscal year. The Local SWM Cluster Board may conduct the same process of reporting. Further, the ordinance may include, however, shall not be limited to the following provisions:

Section 6. Sources and Use of the Local SWM Fund

Funds that will constitute the Local SWM Fund can be sourced from the following:

a) Donations, endowments, grants and contributions from domestic and foreign sources.
b) LGU allocation of fines collected.
c) Fees collected from provision of solid waste services such as collection, recycling, and transport among others.
d) Sub-contracting fees including management, transport and others, as stipulated in the contract or Memorandum of Agreement as in the case of private sector's and civil society's engagement of SWM services, respectively.
e) LGI may allocate fund from the 20% Development Fund for waste management.

The Local Fund may be used to support endeavors, which enhance the implementation of the Act. These may include activities/projects on the following:

a) Products, facilities, technologies and processes to enhance proper solid waste management
b) Research activities
c) Information, education, communication and monitoring activities
d) Capability building activities

Section 7. Criteria for Accessing the Local Fund

a) The proposed project/activity be based on the approved SWM Plan(s) of the LGU or the cluster of LGUs.
b) The level of funding request for a project/activity shall be determined by the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board. Only one (1) project per LGU, private sector or civil society group in a locality, respectively, shall be eligible for support.
c) Project/activity types under the following categories may be considered:
   1. SWM projects which catalyze investment from the private sector and/or other investors
   2. Innovative SWM approaches
   3. Prototyping SWM models
d) A proponent may avail of the Local Fund once in every three (3) years, however, not for the same project/activity. Private sector and civil society groups shall be accredited by the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board, and the process shall be defined by the respective boards.
e) The process for the availment of funds be completed.

Section 8. Process for Availing the Local Fund

The Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board shall prescribe a simple procedure and proforma for fund application. An efficient system of accepting, appraising and approving of proposals shall be established by the respective boards. Furthermore, report proforma as well as procedures for the handling of government funds, shall be provided by the boards. In general, the availment process shall start from the submission of a project/activity concept drawn from the SWM plan. Once the concept proposal is approved, the proponent shall submit a detailed version of the proposal for review and final decision by the board. Subject to a detailed guideline which the respective Local SWM Boards will promulgate, the general process is described in Appendix C.

In no case shall the Community Fund be used for the creation of positions or payment of salaries.

RULE XVI INCENTIVES

Section 1. Incentives

Incentives shall be provided for the purpose of encouraging LGUs, enterprises, private sector and civil society to develop or undertake socially acceptable, effective and efficient solid waste management, and/or to actively participate in any program for the promotion thereof, as provided for in the Act, and these IRRs. The incentives may be fiscal including duties, taxes, interest rates or non-fiscal, including simplified bureaucratic procedures and reduced paper requirements.

a) Rewards - shall be provided to LGUs, individuals, private organizations and entities, including non-government organizations, that have undertaken outstanding and innovative projects, technologies, processes and techniques or activities in re-use, recycling and reduction. The reward shall be appropriately sourced from the Fund.

   A set of standards for innovativeness, proactivity, exemplary and outstanding SWM endeavors shall be formulated by the Commission and localized by the Local SWM Boards. There may be a variety of criteria for granting rewards, including though not limited to, the following categories:

   1. For LGUs who initiate policy reform on SWM, principally by including co-management and the decentralization of authority to conceptualize, support and implement SWM development projects.
   2. For LGUs using methodologies which substantively reduce the generation of wastes and which thereby exceed the 25% waste diversion goal.
   3. For LGUs with comprehensive SWM prototypes which have undergone professional evaluation as matured models on SWM with complete coverage on the sustainable development requisites like the social, economic, cultural, political, technological, institutional and ecological dimensions.
   4. For LGUs using alternative indigenous processes, materials, technologies and approaches which have been exhaustively screened for social acceptability, efficiency and effectivity.
   5. For LGUs hosting SWM facilities. The Commission shall promulgate within one (1) year following the effectivity of these IRR specific guidelines that will provide specific incentives, aside from giving grants and other financial assistance packages, to LGUs hosting or offering to host SWM facilities. The principle by which this package of incentive is designed resolves round the recognition of paying for the access granted to the present and future use of resources that are within the localities. The set of incentives may include, among others, targeting subsidies for specific use of resources like water and power; plowing back certain percentage of the profits generated from the facility to support development initiatives of the LGUs or payment of royalties for continued operation of the facilities. The Commission shall task DENR to undertake a study that will look into the specific aspects of these incentives and present to the public within a year the results of the said study.

   The rewards may be monetized or non-monetized depending on the valuation of the awarding body, in this case, the Commission and Local SWM Boards. The manner of selection for the awardees shall be transparent and public.

b) Grants - Under the Fund, the provinces, cities and municipalities with Commission approved SWM Plans, shall be entitled to receive project/activity grants for a range of SWM endeavors.

c) Fiscal Incentives - A Committee on Fiscal Incentives for SWM Projects and Initiatives (CFI) may be established by the Commission. Committee members may serve a fixed 3-year term. The CFI may be chaired by the DOF and co-chaired by the DTI, and its members constituted by the chairpersons. The organizational protocol of the committee may be formulated by the committee members, but duly approved by the chair of the Commission. This committee may be responsible for providing the technical basis for the fiscal incentives, design proposals, review and for setting the required standards and processes to avail of these fiscal incentives. The procedures for availment of incentives under EO 226 shall be followed.

   Existing Environment-Friendly Establishment. The Commission may provide monetary and non-monetary incentives to existing businesses and industries that have been professionally evaluated to engage in socially acceptable, effective and efficient recycling of wastes. The Commission shall formulate the criteria in awarding these incentives such as:

   1. Tax and Duty Exemption on Imported Capital Equipment and Vehicles

      Within ten (10) years upon effectivity of this Act, LGUs, enterprises or private entities shall enjoy tax and duty-free importation of machinery, equipment, vehicles and spare parts used for collection and processing of solid wastes. Provided, that the importation of such machinery, equipment, vehicle and spare parts shall comply with the following conditions:

      i. They are not manufactured domestically in sufficient quantity, of comparable quality and at reasonable prices;
      ii. They are reasonably needed and will be used actually, directly and exclusively for the above mentioned activities; and
      iii. The approval of the Board of investment (BOI) of the DTI for the importation of such machinery, equipment, vehicle and spare parts.

      Provided further that, the sale, transfer or disposition of such machinery, equipment, vehicle and spare parts, without prior approval of the BOI, within five (5) years from the date of acquisition shall be prohibited, otherwise, the LGU concerned, enterprises or private entities and the vendee, transferee or assignee shall be liable to pay twice the amount of tax and duty exemption given it.

   2. Tax Credit on Domestic Capital Equipment

      Within ten (10) years from the effectivity of the Act, a tax credit equivalent to 50% of the value of the national internal revenue taxes and customs duties that would have been waived on the machinery, equipment, private entities, including NGOs, subject to the same conditions and prohibition.

   3. Tax and Duty Exemption of Donations, Legacies and Gift.

      All legacies, gifts and donations to LGUs, enterprises or private entities, including NGOs, for the support and maintenance of the program for socially acceptable, effective and efficient solid waste management shall be exempt from all internal revenue taxes and customs duties, and shall be deductible in full from the gross income of the donor for income tax purposes. The standard procedures for such exemptions are contained in the Tariff and Customs Code, Section 105-106.

   4. Financial Assistance Program

      Government financial institutions such as the Development Bank of the Philippines (DBP), Landbank of the Philippines (LBP), Philippine National Bank (PNB), Government Service Insurance System (GSIS), and such other government institutions providing financial services shall, in accordance with and to the extent allowed by the enabling provisions of their respective charters or applicable laws, accord high priority to extend financial services to individuals, enterprises, or private entities engaged in solid waste management. These services maybe in the form of, but are not limited to the list as below:

      i. Provision of technical assistance to prospective SWM project proponents
      ii. Special interest rates
      iii. Collateral for loans
      iv. Grace period of loans

d) Non-Fiscal Incentives - LGUs/Authorities, enterprises or private entities shall also be entitled to applicable non-fiscal incentives formerly provided for under E.O. 226, otherwise known as the Omnibus Investments Code.

   1. *Enhanced Procedure for Importation*
      The Commission shall define a simplified and more efficient process for the importation of equipment, spare parts, new materials and supplies; provided the process is in accordance with the existing custom standards.
   2. *Enhanced Procedure for Exportation*
      An enhanced procedure to export locally processed products from SWM projects shall be established by the Commission. Similarly, the Commission shall develop export standards for SWM processed products.
   3. *Enhanced Certification, Permitting and Licensing Processes*
      The Commission through the Department shall provide support to SWM projects requiring an ECC. It shall thereby hasten the EIA process by formulating a guideline for the specific procedure of EIA for SWM projects. Similarly, the Local SWM Boards/Local SWM Cluster Boards shall establish simplified and efficient procedure for permitting and licensing functions.
   4. *Knowledge and Skills Exchange*
      The Commission, Local SWM Boards and Local SWM Cluster Boards shall provide cross study visits in-country and outside the country, in order to model SWM projects. The travel requirements and process shall be established by the Commission in accordance with existing governmental procedures.
   5. *Employment of Foreign Nationals*
      Pursuant to the relevant provisions of EO 226, procedures for an enhanced processing of the employment of foreign nationals shall be hereafter followed.

e) Private Sector Participation - Essentially, contractual arrangement is envisaged to be entered into by a Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board. This provides authority for the private sector to finance, construct, operate and maintain a facility and, in the process, to charge user fees or receive compensation. The Commission shall further define the guidelines for the private sector engagement.

   The choice of the participation mode may vary from any of the scheme authorized under the BOT Law, RA 6957, as amended by RA 7718 and its implementing Rules and Regulations or joint venture arrangement allowed under the Local Government Code, RA 7160, as well as other private sector funded arrangements.

   The following rights may be bestowed on the private sector proponent:

   1. To operated the facility over a fixed period, not to exceed 50 years;
   2. To charge facility user fees, tolls, rentals or share in the revenue of the project; and
   3. To recover capital, operating and maintenance expenses and earn a reasonable return on investment.

RULE XVII. COST RECOVERY MECAHNISMS

Section 1. Power to Collect Solid Waste Management Fees

The Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board shall impose fees on the SWM services provided for by the LGU and/or any authorized organization or unit. In determining the amounts of the fees, a Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board shall include only those costs directly related to the adoption and implementation of the SWM Plan and the setting and collection of the local fees. This power to impose fees may be ceded to the private sector and civil society groups which have been duly accredited by the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board; provided, the SWM fees shall be covered by a Contract or Memorandum of Agreement between the respective board and the private sector or civil society group.

The fees shall pay for the costs of preparing, adopting and implementing a SWM Plan prepared pursuant to the Act. Further, the fees shall also be used to pay the actual costs incurred in collecting the local fees and for project sustainability.

Section 2. Basis of SWM Service Fees

Reasonable SWM service fees shall be computed based on but not limited to the following minimum factors:

a) Types of solid waste to include special waste
b) amount/volume of waste
c) distance of the transfer station to the waste management facility
d) capacity or type of LGU constituency
e) cost of construction
f) cost of management
g) type of technology

Section 3. Collection of Fees

Fees may be collected corresponding to the following levels:

a) Barangay - The Barangay may impose fees for collection and segregation of biodegradable, compostable and reusable wastes from households, commerce, other sources of domestic wastes, and for the use of Barangay MRFs. The computation of the fees shall be established by the respective SWM boards. The manner of collection of the fees shall be dependent on the style of administration of respective Barangay Councils. However, all transactions shall follow the Commission on Audit rules on collection of fees.
b) Municipality - The municipal and city councils may impose fees on the barangay MRFs for the collection and transport of non-recyclable and special wastes and for the disposal of these into the sanitary landfill. The level and procedure for exacting fees shall be defined by the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board and supported by LGU ordinances, however, payments shall be consistent with the accounting system of government.
c) Private Sector/Civil society Group - On the basis of the stipulations of contract or Memorandum of Agreement, the private sector or civil society group shall impose fees for collection, transport and tipping in their SLFs. Receipts and invoices shall be issued to the paying public or to the government.

Section 4. Collection and Retention of Fines

The collection of fines under the penal provisions of the Act may be conducted by the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board or any other authorized body. The collection shall be receipted. Alternatively, the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board and/or any duly authorized body shall retain the 40% portion of the collected fees from fines and remit 60% of the same to the Fund, as prescribed herein. Thereafter, the retained percentage is deposited under the Local Fund, the procedure for which shall be defined by the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board.

Section 5. Special Account

The Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board shall establish appropriate special accounts for the fines, fees, donations and other monies collected or generated under the Act and this IRR.

PART V. PROHIBITED ACTS, PENALITIES AND SUITS

RULE XVIII PENAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Prohibited Acts

The following acts are prohibited:

a) Littering, throwing, dumping of waste matters in public places, such as roads, sidewalks, canals, esteros or parks, and establishment, or causing or permitting the same;
b) Undertaking activities or operating, collecting or transporting equipment in violation of sanitation operation and other requirements or permits set forth in or established pursuant to the Act;
c) The open burning of solid waste;
d) Causing or permitting the collection of non-segregated or unsorted waste;
e) Squatting in open dumps and landfills;
f) Open dumping, burying of biodegradable or noon-biodegradable materials in flood-prone areas;
g) Unauthorized removal of recyclable material intended for collection by authorized persons;
h) The mixing of source-separated recyclable material with other solid waste in any vehicle, box, container or receptacle used in solid waste collection or disposal;
i) Establishment or operation of open dumps as enjoined in the Act, or closure of said dumps in violation of Sec. 37 of the Act;
j) The manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials;
k) Importation of consumer products packaged in non-environmentally acceptable materials;
l) Importation of toxic wastes misrepresented as "recyclable" or "with recyclable content";
m) Transport and dumping in bulk of collected domestic, industrial, commercial and institutional wastes in areas other than centers of facilities prescribed under the Act;
n) Site preparation, construction, expansion or operation of waste management facilities without an Environmental Compliance Certificate required pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1586 and the Act and not conforming with the land use plan of the LGU;
o) The construction of any establishment within two hundred (200) meters from open dump or controlled dumps or sanitary landfills; and
p) The construction or operation of landfills or any waste disposal facility on any aquifer, groundwater reservoir or watershed area and/or any portion thereof.

The Commission may also issue further guidelines that consider existing and relevant laws and regulations, and which may further define the scope and coverage of the above prohibited acts.

Section 2. Specific Prohibition Against the Use of Open Dumps for Solid Waste.

No open dumps shall be established and operated, nor any practice or disposal of solid waste by any person, including LGUs, which constitutes the use of open dumps for solid waste, be allowed after the effectivity of the Act; Provided, that within three (3) years after the effectivity of the Act, every LGU shall convert its open dumps into controlled dumps; Provided, further, that no controlled dumps shall be allowed five (5) years following effectivity of the Act. In order to facilitate the Act's requirement that LGUs convert their open dumps into controlled dumps, the Commission, shall direct the Department in collaboration with DILG, to formulate a staged-compliance program. The staged compliance program shall consider but not be limited to respective LGU classification and abilities to immediately comply with Section 41 of the Act. It shall also establish its base line from the inventory of all open dumpsites in the country, which must be completed not more than three (3) months following effectivity of these Rules and Regulations.

Section 3. Fines and Penalties

The following schedule of fines and penalties shall be imposed, upon conviction:

SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS (under Section 49 of the Act)	FINES	PENALTIES
Paragraph 1. Littering, throwing, dumping of waste matters in public places, such as roads, sidewalks, canals, esteros or parks, and establishment, or causing or permitting the same	Payment in the amounts not less than Three hundred pesos (P300.000) but not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) or	Rendering of community service for not less than one (1) day to not more than fifteen (15) days to an LGU where such prohibited acts are committed or both
Para 2. Undertaking activities or operating, collecting or transporting equipment in violation of sanitation operation and other requirements or permits set forth in or established pursuant to the Act Para 3. The open burning of solid waste	Payment in the amounts not less than Three hundred pesos (P300.000) but not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) or	Imprisonment of not less than one (1) day to not more than fifteen (15) days or both
Para 4. Causing or permitting the collection of non-segregated or unsorted waste Para 5. Squatting in open dumps and landfills Para 6. Open dumping, burying of biodegradable or noon-biodegradable materials in flood-prone areas Para 7. Unauthorized removal of recyclable material intended for collection by authorized persons	Payment in the amounts not less than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00) but not more than Three thousand pesos (P3,000.00) or	Imprisonment of not less than fifteen (15) day to not more than six (6) months or both
Para 8. The mixing of source-separated recyclable material with other solid waste in any vehicle, box, container or receptacle used in solid waste collection or disposal Para 9. Establishment or operation of open dumps as enjoined in the Act, or closure of said dumps in violation of Sec. 37 of the Act Para 10. The manufacture, distribution or use of non-environmentally acceptable packaging materials Para 11. Importation of consumer products packaged in non-environmentally acceptable materials	For the first time, shall pay a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) plus an amount not less than five percent (5%) but not more than ten percent (10%) of his net annual income during the previous year	The additional penalty of imprisonment of a minimum period of one (1) year, but not to exceed three (3) years at the discretion of the court, shall be imposed for second or subsequent violations of Sec. 48 of the Act, paragraphs (9) and (10)
Para 12. Importation of toxic wastes misrepresented as "recyclable" or "with recyclable content" Para 13. Transport and dumping in bulk of collected domestic, industrial, commercial and institutional wastes in areas other than centers of facilities prescribed under the Act	Payment in the amounts not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or	Imprisonment of not less than thirty (30) days but not more than three (3) years, or both
Para 14. Site preparation, construction, expansion or operation of waste management facilities without an Environmental Compliance Certificate required pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1586 and the Act and not conforming with the land use plan of the LGU Para 15. The construction of any establishment within two hundred (200) meters from open dump or controlled dumps or sanitary landfills Para 16. The construction or operation of landfills or any waste disposal facility on any aquifer, groundwater reservoir or watershed area and/or any portion thereof.	Payment in the amounts not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than One million pesos (P1,000,000.00) or	Imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than six (6) years, or both

If the offense is committed by a corporation, partnership, or other juridical entity duly organized in accordance with law, the chief executive officer, president, general manager, managing partner or such other officer-in-charge shall be liable for the commission of the offense penalized under the Act.

If the offender is an alien, he shall, after service of the sentence prescribed above, be deported without further administrative proceedings.

The fines herein prescribed shall be increased by at least ten percent (10%) every three (3) years to compensate for inflation and to maintain the deterrent function of such fines.

RULE XIX ADMINISTRATIVE AND ENFORCEMENT PROCEDURES

Section 1. Proceedings

In the enforcement of the Act and this IRR, both criminal and administrative proceedings may be instituted.

Section 2. Criminal Actions

Violators of Section 48 of the Act shall be subject to criminal proceedings, pursuant to the relevant provisions of the revised rules on criminal procedure.

Section 3. Enforcement Mechanism

The Commission shall define the roles of the Department, other concerned agencies, LGUs and any other agency deemed responsible for the implementation and enforcement of the Act and its IRRs. It shall also promulgate detailed procedures and protocols for such implementation and enforcement of the Act and its IRRs at the Commission and local governmental level.

Section 4. Enforcement at the Local Government Level

LGUs shall be required to legislate appropriate ordinances to aid in the implementation of the Act and in the enforcement of its provisions. Specific measures to implement and enforce Section 48 of the Act should be included; provided, such ordinances shall be formulated pursuant to relevant provisions of RA 7160; provided further, that the Commission shall aid LGUs in this process particularly by giving advisory assistance. For this purpose, a pro forma ordinance shall be established by the Commission for the guidance of LGUs. However, LGUs shall not be limited to this pro forma nor shall it prejudice any further improvement, modifications and revisions LGUs may chose to undertake of the pro forma.

Section 5. Deputization of Solid Waste Management Officers

The Commission shall be authorized to deputize persons, individuals or entities to be Solid Waste Management Officer, giving them authority to effect the arrest of violators in accordance with the law, for purposes of enforcing and implementing the Act, its IRRs and other rules and regulations governing solid waste management. Provided however, that no person is deputized until they have completed the necessary training and capacity building, required by the NEC, for the effective implementation of the Act and its IRRs.

The deputization shall be upon the recommendations of the Provincial Solid Waste Management Board and City/Municipal Solid Waste Management Boards. The Commission shall deputize only those persons of known integrity and probity, who have completed the aforementioned training and capacity building of the National Ecology Center. Further, the Commission shall formulate the necessary guidelines for the protocol and procedures for deputization within six (6) months following the effectivity of these Rules and Regulations.

Section 6. Enforcement by the Commission

The Commission shall provide a mechanism whereby, any citizen, LGU or concerned agency may file an action/complaint directly with the Secretariat and concurrently with any other appropriate legal proceeding.

Section 7. Actions and Procedures

The following sets of general procedures shall guide the administration of actions until such time as the Commission shall issue more detailed guidelines and procedures for the administration of enforcement.

a) Commencement of Actions -Actions may be instituted for violations of any of the prohibited acts under the Act of these Rules and Regulations, and/or any further orders issued by the aforementioned agencies under the enforcement mechanism section of the IRRs.

   Actions shall be commenced by any person filing a written complaint, or by the Department on its own initiative, or by the filing of a charge by any deputized agent of the Department, Commission or the LGU, before the court hearing officer.

   However, the commencement of such an action shall be without prejudice to the right of any individual or affected person to file any other appropriate legal action for the violation of the Act, its IRRs and/or any further orders issued by the aforementioned concerned agencies.

   The LGU ordinance shall prescribe the rules and procedures for the commencement of an action/complaint at the local level.

b) Charge Sheets - For actions initiated by the respective LGUs, the filing of charge sheets shall be in accordance with the rules and procedures prescribed by relevant ordinances and pursuant to the relevant provisions of RA 7160. Actions initiated by and for the Department shall follow the existing rules and procedures of the Agency. The charge sheet shall be in writing and drawn in clear and concise language. It shall recite the ultimate facts constituting the cause(s) of action and/or the violations committed under the Act and/or these Implementing Rules and Regulations, as well as all information pertinent thereto and shall be duly signed by the apprehending officer. The charge sheet shall include a notice requiring the Respondent to appear and answer the charge, and specify the date, time and place indicated therein which shall not be less than fifteen (15) days nor more than thirty (30) days from receipt hereof.

c) Filing and Service of Charge Sheet / Complaint - The charge sheet shall be filed in two (2) copies before the secretariat. Upon the receipt of the charge sheet and/or a complaint, the secretariat shall determine the appropriate agency, to which the charge sheet and/ or complaint may be remitted.

d) Hearing -Designated hearing officers of the appropriate agencies, to which the charge sheet/ complaint is remitted, shall regard both the validity of the action/ complaint and the appropriate authority, to which the charge sheet should proceed and be determined and shall make recommendations, thereto.

   Hearing officers shall be appointed and undertake their responsibilities pursuant to the guidelines and criteria of their existing agency.

   Department Secretaries shall be responsible for undertaking the appropriate action regarding the action/complaint, once the secretariat has determined that it should proceed to his/her particular agency. Existing agency procedures shall apply where appropriate, including both administrative and criminal procedure.

e) Nature and Procedure - Subject to the basic requirements of due process, the proceedings herein provided shall be summary in nature. The technical rules of evidence obtaining in courts of law shall not bind the designated adjudicating unit for LGUs or of the Department as the case maybe. Similarly the rules of the Court shall not apply in proceedings before the adjudicating unit except in a supplementary character and only whenever applicable.

Section 8. Closure or Suspension of Operations of Solid Waste Management Facilities

The Department shall have the authority to order the closure or suspension of developments, construction or operation of solid waste management facilities pursuant to existing laws, rules and regulations.

Section 9. Authentication with Official Seal

All decisions, orders and appropriate legal documents hereinafter promulgated shall be issued with the official seal of the Department or the government agencies designated by the Commission.

RULE XX. SUITS

Section 1. Citizen Suits

The purposes of this section are to:

a) promote the participation of the citizens in the enforcement of the Act
b) ensure that government officials to take the necessary and appropriate action to abate and/ or control pollution.

The legal actions contemplated under this section of the IRR are for civil and criminal remedies. The procedure for administrative sanctions is discussed under Section 50 and Section 61 of the Act and IRR, respectively.

Any citizen may file an appropriate civil, criminal or administrative action in the proper courts/ bodies against:

a. Any person who violates or fails to comply with the provisions of the Act or this rules and regulations; or
b. The Department or other implementing agencies with the respect to orders, rules and regulations issued inconsistent with the Act; and/or
c. Any public officer who willfully or grossly neglects the performance of an act specifically enjoined as a duty by the Act or this rules and regulations.

Provided, however, that no suit can be filed until after thirty-day(30) notice has been given to the public officer and the alleged violator concerned and no appropriate action has been taken thereon.

Section 2. Suits and Strategic Legal Action Against Public Participation (SLAPP) and the Enforcement of the Act.

Where a suit is brought against a person who filed an action as provided in Sec. 52 of the Act, or against any person, institution or government agency that implements the Act, it shall be the duty of the investigating prosecutor or the Court, as the case may be, to immediately make a determination not exceeding thirty (30) days whether said legal action has been filed to harass, vex, exert undue pressure or stifle such legal recourses of the person complaining of or enforcing the provisions of the Act. Upon determination thereof, evidence warranting the same, the Court shall dismiss the case and award attorney's fees and double damages.

This provision shall also apply and benefit public officers who are sued for acts committed in their official capacity, there being no grave abuse of authority, and done in the course of enforcing the Act.

Section 3. Administrative Sanctions

Local government officials and officials of government agencies concerned, who fail to comply with and enforce rules and regulations promulgated relative to the Act shall be charged administratively in accordance with the Ombudsman Law and RA 7160 and other existing laws , rules and regulations.

Any citizen may file an action. The action shall be filed with the DILG or the Ombudsman, if related to any LGU, or to any government agency/employee, respectively.

PART VI. RESEARCH, PUBLIC INFORMATION AND ACCESS TO RECORDS

RULE XXI. RESEARCH AND PUBLIC INFORMATION

Section 1. Research on Solid Waste Management

The Department, in consultations with the cooperating agencies, shall encourage, cooperate with and may render financial and other assistance to appropriate government agencies, academe, private institutions and individuals in the conduct and promotion of researches, experiments, and other studies on solid waste management.

a) The DOH, in coordination with the concerned agencies and institutions, shall spearhead the study on the adverse health effects of the unintentional release of by-products of combustion (e.g., dioxins and furans) and methods to eliminate said effects. Likewise, the health effects of solid wastes to scavengers, garbage collectors and other personnel involved in the solid waste management (SWM) programs shall be looked into by concerned agencies.
b) The DENR, in coordination with the concerned agencies and institutions shall:
   1. Spearhead the setting of standards for leachate.
   2. Conduct monitoring of the leachate contamination of ground water and surface water.
   3. Chair the panel that will evaluate research proposals on solid waste management for possible funding.
   4. Lead in the benchmarking of researches on solid wastes for the identification of gaps.
   5. Study on factors for success/failure of community-based waste management initiatives.
   6. Pursue improvement in the disposal practices for the solid wastes including sludge.
   7. Undertake researches on economic instruments in solid waste management.
c) The DOST, in coordination with the concerned agencies and institutions, shall:
   1. Initiate study on the alternative usage of non-recyclable and non-reusable materials.
   2. Develop an environmental technology verification (ETV) program in the evaluation of technologies prior to its introduction locally. ETV will serve as basis for verifying the performance of technology under local conditions.
   3. Promote the development of clean technology (CT)/production (CP) program in industry. Technical assistance program shall be provided by concerned agencies to implement CP and CT by the industries.
   4. Develop and apply new and improved methods of collecting and disposing of solid wastes and processing and recovering materials and energy from solid wastes.
   5. Improved utilization of various types of organic materials as source of fertilizer and biofuels.
   6. Conduct of study and development of new uses of recovered resources.
d) The DA, in coordination with the concerned agencies and institutions, shall:
   1. Lead in the improvement of composting technology and make such more affordable to communities at the barangay levels.
   2. Identify/inventory existing markets and demand for compost.
   3. Encourage the composting of agricultural waste, and other compostable materials including, but not limited to garden waste.
   4. Assist the compost producers to ensure that the compost products conform to standards.
   5. Set standards for organic fertilizers from compost.
e) The DOE, in coordination with the concerned agencies and institutions, shall:
   1. Spearhead landfill extraction and utilization of biogas.
   2. Lead in production of usable forms of recovered resources, including fuels from solid waste.

In carrying out solid waste management related researched and studies, the Secretary of the Department or the authorized representative may provide grants or enter into contract with government agencies, non-government organizations, academe, private institutions and individuals

The private sector is further encourage to pursue researched in solid waste management.

Section 2. Environmental Education in the Formal and Non-formal Sectors

a) The Department of Education (DeptEd), the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), and other concerned government agencies, shall aggressively incorporate ecological waste management in the school systems at all levels, emphasizing the involvement of the school administrators, teaching and non-teaching staff, and studentry in school-wide and nearby community waste management actions, and in the strengthening of the waste management content in the curricula.
b) Such education program shall emphasize, but not be limited to, the ill-effects of solid wastes relative to human health and the environment, waste minimization and pollution prevention, waste segregation (biodegradable and non-biodegradable) and storage, waste reduction at source, waste recycling/reuse, composting, different methods of waste management and economic benefits derived thereat, and other community-based solutions to the solid waste problem.
c) The education program should also include the provisions of the prohibited acts, their sanction, and the right of citizens to file suits.

Section 3. Public Education and Information

a) The Department of Interior and Local Governments (DILG) and its leagues, in coordination with the National Ecology Center and its local counterparts, shall ensure active education and public information on waste management of every local government unit, down to the barangay levels.
b) The local government units, down to the barangay levels, shall allocate a portion of their funds, to public education and information activities on ecological waste management particularly biodegradable and non-biodegradable wastes including, but not limited to, installation of billboards on collection days for specific waste types, other outdoor signage's, stickers, flyers, conduct of seminars, and other effective non-traditional information strategies.
c) The Office of the Press Secretary, the Philippine Information Agency, the Kapisanan ng mga Brodkaster ng Pilipinas, the National Press Club, the Philippine Press Institute and the private sector (particularly the entertainment and advertising industries), shall allocate regular free air time and print spaces on waste management matters, in television, radio, broadsheets, outdoor signages, other telecommunications, information technologies and non-traditional media channels.
d) The DILG, through the Philippine National Police, the Department of National Defense and the Philippine Coast Guard, shall help enforce compliance to Sections 48 and 49 of the said prohibited acts of this Law.
e) All government offices, at the national and local levels, within the executive, legislation and judicial branches, and government-owned and controlled corporations, shall ensure information, education and actual implementation of waste management programs at the workplaces and work premises, including the pursuit of environment-friendly purchasing policies for their respective offices.
f) The DENR, other concerned government agencies, educational associations, non-government organizations, people's organizations and the private sector, shall also help implement various efforts in the education and public information on waste management.
g) All garbage collection an hauling companies shall also be directed to install visible signs in their collection and hauling trucks, describing the waste type they are supposed to collect (for example, NABUBULOK, NARERESIKLO, DI NABUBULOK).
h) All garbage collection and hauling companies shall also be enjoined to employ other possible media approached to ensure compliance to mandatory waste segregation (for example, use of bell, characteristic music, jingle, slogan, color-coded trucks, and the like) in their garbage collection vehicles.
i) All institutions in the foregoing provisions are directed to submit periodic reports to the appropriate local solid waste management boards. The criteria and mechanisms for the report and its submission may be specified by the NSWMC. The report shall thereafter be submitted to the NSWMC secretariat. Sample copies of education and public information materials and strategies employed, shall be part of such submissions.

RULE XXII. ACCESS TO RECORDS

Section 1. Public Access to Records

Any record, report or information obtained by the NSWMC and /or its secretariat, and their local offices, under the Act and the IRR, shall be available to the public.

Section 2. Business and Industry Role

The Commission shall encourage commercial and industrial establishments through appropriate incentives other than tax incentives:

a) To initiate, participate and invest in integrated ecological solid waste management projects;
b) To manufacture environmental-friendly products, to introduce, develop and adopt innovative processes that shall recycle and re-use materials, conserve raw materials and energy, reduce waste and prevent pollution; and
c) To undertake community activities to promote and propagate effective solid waste management practices.

PART VII. FINAL PROVISIONS

Section 1. Separability Clause

If any section or provision of these Rules and Regulations is held or declared unconstitutional or invalid by a competent court, the other sections or provisions hereof shall continue to be in force as if the sections or provisions so annulled or voided had never been incorporated herein.

Section 2. Repealing Clause

All Rules and Regulations or parts of said rules and regulations of pertinent laws inconsistent with these Rules and Regulations are hereby revised, amended, modified and/or superseded as the case may be by these Rules and Regulations.

Section 3. Amendments

These Rules and Regulations may be amended and/or modified from time to time by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Section 4. Effectivity

These Implementing Rules and Regulations shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

HEHERSON ALVAREZ
Secretary

APPENDIX A

General Guidelines/Procedures in Conducting Waste Characterization Survey/Study

When conducting waste characterization survey/study, the following guidelines shall apply unless modified by the Commission.

1) **Waste composition** – when analyzing solid waste composition, it is necessary to obtain the following information: total quantities of waste, bulk(density), moisture content, and composition (physical and chemical)

   Waste may be described as:
   Readily biodegradable – garbage, paper, wood, leaves, trees.
   Readily combustible – textile, plastics, rubber, leather.
   Mostly inert – metals, glass, dirt, ceramics, ash and stones

2) **Sampling of solid waste** – in order to obtain representative sample the following steps should be undertaken;
   a) subdivide the area into sub areas each representing a certain economic status
   b) further subdivide the areas into residential, commercial, market, light industrial, hospital, etc in case of municipal waste; and
   c) collect a representative sample for each sub-area.

   To adequately determine the composition, the generalized field procedure should include the following processes;

   a) As soon as the study area is selected and subdivided, a marked vehicle collects refuse from each unit area. Each vehicle must be fully loaded and brought into the sample processing site.
   b) The load is placed on a clean, flat surface, mixed thoroughly, then formed into a square about 30 cm high;
   c) This is subdivided into quarters, two opposite quarters are discarded and the two remaining quarters are throughtly mixed again, formed into a square, and again quartered. This continues until the desired refuse quantity is obtained (usually about one cubic meter)

3) **Moisture content determination** – when determining moisture content of waste, the following steps shall be undertaken:
   a) Weigh the sample;
   b) Separate the components;
   c) Weigh each component as is;
   d) Oven dry the component at about 75 degrees Celsius for 24 hours to minimize the possibility of components sticking to each other; and
   e) Weigh each component again.

4) **Sorting** – when sorting the sample, the following guidelines shall apply
   a) Sort the sample into major components
   b) Weigh each component again

5) **Statistical treatment of data** – Data obtained is processed to determine the following:
   a) seasonal means
   b) differences of generation between economic groups
   c) differences in quantity and quality between seasons
   d) others depending on objective of study such as NPK values.

APPENDIX B

General Procedure for Availing the National Solid Waste Management Fund

The following general procedure is herewith established with the intent of making availment process of the National Solid Waste Fund by the LGUs more efficient and transparent. The Commission shall further detail this process in its subsequent issuances. Interested proponents are advised to be familiar with this general process so as facilitate the decisions on the submitted proposals.

1. **Pre-selection of project proposals** – The Commission through the Department shall formulate a set of criteria that will define eligible projects/ activities that can be supported under the Fund. This set of criteria will pre-select which project/activities can be considered by the Commission for funding. Project concepts meeting this criteria can now be further considered with proponents completing a proforma application which is to be submitted to the Commission through the Secretariat. Only stipulated documents will be received by the Secretariat.
2. **Submissions** – Submitted package concept proposal should be addressed to the following:

   The Chairman
   National Solid Waste Management Commission
   Attn: Executive Director
   The Secretariat
   Environmental Management Bureau- DENR
   Visayas Ave., Quezon City

3. **Review of Submitted Proposals** – The Executive Director of the Secretariat will is mandated to respond within two months upon receipt of the proposal. Upon determination that the proposal is considered meritorious and qualified for funding based on a second set of project review criteria the Secretariat will advise the proponent to provide details of the proposal. Proponents shall be asked to prepare a detailed proposal for resubmission to the Secretariat. Only documents specified by the Secretariat and are considered materially important for the review of the proposal. Submitted detailed proposals will be thoroughly reviewed by the Secretariat. The Secretariat is also authorized to request for additional information from the proponent if deemed necessary. However, the requests for additional information shall be limited to two requests, as said proposals will then be considered for revision.

   Project concepts not meeting the set criteria will be returned to the proponent with suggestions for refinement or improvement. Proponent has the option to resubmit the proposal upon incorporation of the suggested comments for refinement.
4. **Approval** – Upon exhaustive assessment of the proposal the Secretariat shall recommend approval of project/activity to the Commission. Once the project is approved, the Commission and the proponent shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement
5. **Pre implementation notice** - A notice to proceed along with the advice for the release of project/activity fund will be served to the proponent. Proponents will be advised of the manner of fund transfer which will follow government procedures for the its release.
6. **Implementation** - Proper implementation of the project/activity is advised.

APPENDIX C

General Procedure for Availing Local Solid Waste Management Fund

The following general procedure is herewith established with the intent of making availment process of the Local Solid Waste Management Fund by the LGUs, private sector and the civil society more efficient and transparent. The Commission shall further detail this process in its subsequent issuances. Interested proponents are advised to be familiar with this general process so as facilitate the decisions on the submitted proposals.

1. **Pre-selection of project proposals** – The Commission through the Department shall formulate a set of criteria that will help the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board define eligible projects/activities that can be supported under the Fund. This set of criteria will pre-select which project/activities can be considered by the Local SWM Boards for funding. Project concepts meeting this criteria can now be further considered with proponents completing a proforma application which is to be submitted to the Local SWM Board. Only stipulated documents will be received by the Secretariat.
2. **Submission** – Proponents shall submit their proposal to either the Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board using the following format:

   The Mayor/Chairman
   Local SWM Board/Local SWM Cluster Board
   City/Municipality of ____________
   Province of ________________
   Address

3. **Review of Submitted Proposals** – The designated office/unit by the Local SWM boards is mandated to respond within two months upon receipt of the proposal. Upon determination that the proposal is considered meritorious and qualified for funding based on a second set of project review criteria the designated will advise the proponent to provide details of the proposal. Proponents shall be asked to prepare a detailed proposal for resubmission to the designated office/unit. Only documents specified by the said office and are considered materially important for the review of the proposal. Submitted detailed proposals will be thoroughly reviewed. The said office is also authorized to request for additional information from the proponent if deemed necessary. However, the requests for additional information shall be limited to two requests, as said proposals will then be considered for revision.

   Project concepts not meeting the set criteria will be returned to the proponent with suggestions for refinement or improvement. Proponent has the option to resubmit the proposal upon incorporation of the suggested comments for refinement.
4. **Approval** – Upon exhaustive assessment of the proposal the designated review office /unit shall recommend approval of project/activity to the Chair of the Local SWM Board. Once the project is approved, the Board and the proponent shall execute a Memorandum of Agreement
5. **Implementation** – A notice to proceed along with the advice for the release of project/activity fund will be served to the proponent. Proponents will be advised of the manner of fund transfer which will follow government procedures for the its release.

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We, the family of the late

Rev. Father Julio Cesar "Chiqui" M. Manalo

Wish to express our deepest gratitude to all of you, friends, relatives, parishioners and other supporters who condoled and grieved with us, offered Masses, sent messages of comfort, gave monetary and other material aid on the occasion of the passing of our beloved Father **CHIQUI**.

We shall always treasure your generosity, kindness and sympathy, and ask you to join us in living the legacy of love and service to the less fortunate, left to us by Father **CHIQUI**.

P/GENERAL BERNARDO R. ALEJANDRO (Ret.)

PMA Class 1965

Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 4, 2002 at the age of 59.

His bereaved and loving wife **Ma. Luisa**; children **Bernardo Luis II, Bernardo Antonio III & Joy, Bernardo Rafaelito IV & Pearl, Bernardo Mari V, Bernardo Paolo VI, Bernardo Jonathan VII**; grandchildren **Gerry Lou, Jenette** and **Joseph Alexander**; other relatives and friends and the members of PMA Class 1965 and their families request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the PNP Mortuary, Camp Crame, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 10, 2002 at the Libingan Ng Mga Bayani, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

**I am
the way,
the truth
and the life.
No one
comes to
the Father
except
through
Me.**
John 14:6

ATTY. ALFONSO F. FAMARAN, SR.

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 4, 2002
at the age of 71.

His bereaved wife **ROSARIO**; son **ALFONSO, JR.**; brothers, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, January 9, 2002 at the Heaven's Gate I, after the 1:00 p.m. Mass.

**"For God so loved
the world, that
He gave His only
begotten Son, that
whoever believes
in Him shall not
perish but have
everlasting life."**
John 3:16

In loving memory of

JESUS RODNEY M. SANTIAGO

Masses will be offered on Wednesday, January 9, 2002
at the following churches:

Presentation of the Child Jesus *BF Homes Phase 3, Parañaque City*	6:45 a.m.
Sta. Maria dela Strada Parish *Katipunan Rd., Brgy. Pansol, QC*	6:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. Paul, The Apostle Parish *Mother Ignacia cor. Timog Ave., QC*	7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
St. John Bosco Parish *Pasong Tamo, Makati City*	7:30 a.m.
Sacred Heart Parish *Kamuning, QC*	7:00 a.m. & 6:00 p.m.
Monasterio de Sta. Clara *C-5 Katipunan Rd. cor. Aurora Blvd., QC*	6:00 a.m.

Thank you for praying with us.
Arlene Zaballa-Santiago & the Santiago family.

Our Dear Mother

FELICIDAD CORTEZ TABLAN

of 3540 Juniper St., San Diego California 92104

Has peacefully joined our CREATOR on the 1st day of January of our LORD's year 2002.

Together with our loving father **Dr. Apolinario R. Tablan Sr.**; we her children **Dr. Apolinario C. Tablan Jr.** and **Brigitte G. Tablan, Bobbie** and **Roy Villadiego, Boots** and **Eric Bluestone, Brigitte** and **Ken Furra**; her grandchildren **Dennise, Dexter, Dianne Kristine, RB, Robee, David, Jillian, Ma. Catalina** and other relatives and friends request you to pray for her on her eternal journey with our LORD.

Her remains lie in state at Merkly-Mitchell Mortuary at 3655, 5th Ave. San Diego, California.

Cremation scheduled on January 5, 2002.

ATTY. AUGUSTO T. PASTRANA

Peacefully joined his Creator
on January 4, 2002 at the age of 74.

His bereaved wife **Cristeta**; children **Mabel, Julius, Augustus, Roy & Jed Ian**; grandchildren, sisters, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Cremation will be on January 10, 2002 at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City after the 11:00 a.m. Mass.

IN LOVING MEMORY OF THE
FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF

DR. IRENEO V. GUERRERO

U.S.T. MEDICINE CLASS '49
Of Naga City and Virac, Catanduanes
Who joined his Creator on January 9, 2001

Wife **Lising de la Torre**; sons **Alex & Ernie** (†); daughters **Arleen Nieva, Leni & Sherry Ann**; sons-in-law **Vernee**; grandsons **Shalom & Jonlyle,** and **Rechie & Rudy, Ariel, Rodel & Nick.**

Holy Masses will be offered on January 9, 2002

6:00 AM	**Metropolitan Cathedral**, Naga City
6:30 AM	**Carmelite Monastery**, Naga City
7:00 AM	**Peñafrancia Church**, Naga City
10:30 AM	**Basilica Minore**, Naga City
5:00 PM	**San Francisco Church**, Naga City

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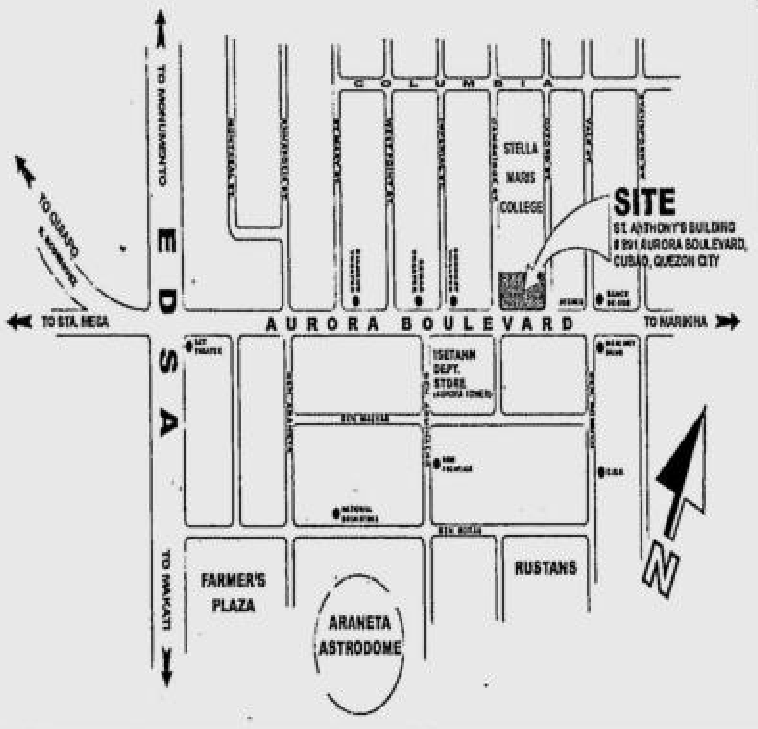

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If you do not file your Response on time, the court may make orders affecting your marriage, your property, and custody of your children. You may be ordered to pay support and attorney fees and costs. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the clerk for a fee waiver form.

If you want legal advice, contact a lawyer immediately

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2. The name, address, and telephone number of petitioner's attorney, or petitioner without an attorney, is
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(PDI--Dec. 16, 23, 30, 2001 & Jan. 6, 2002)

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Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Julita L. Bautista was extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc. 1837, Page 73, Book IV series 2001 before notary public Jovenal P. Pablo of Sta. Ignacia, Tarlac (PDI-Dec. 30. Jan 6 & 13. 2001)

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT
Holy Spirit thou who make me see everything and show me the way to reach my ideal. You who give me the divine gift to forgive and forget the wrong that is done to me and who are in all instances of my life with me. I, in this short dialogue, want to thank You for everything and confirm once more that I never want to be separated from You, no matter how great the material desires maybe. I want to be with You and my loved ones in Your Perpetual Glory. Amen. -MRSC

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH
Oh, St. Joseph, whose protection is so great, so strong, so prompt before the throne of God. I place in you all my interest and desires. Oh, St. Joseph, do assist me by your powerful intercession, and obtain for me from your divine son all spiritual blessings, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. So that, having engaged here below your heavenly power, I may offer my thanksgiving and homage to the most loving of fathers. Oh, St. Joseph, I never weary contemplating you, and Jesus asleep in your arms; I dare not approach while He reposes near your heart. Press Him in my name and kiss His fine head for me and ask Him to return the Kiss when I draw my dying breath. St. Joseph, Patron of departing souls - Pray for me.
This prayer was found in the fiftieth year of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. In 1505 it was sent from the Pope to Emperor Charles when he was going into battle. Whoever shall read this prayer or hear it or keep it about themselves, shall never die a sudden death, or be drowned, nor shall poison take effect on them; neither shall they fall into the hands of the enemy, or shall be burned in any fire or shall be overpowered in battle.
Say for nine mornings for anything you may desire. It has never been known to fail so be sure you really want what you ask.

PRAYER TO ST. ANTHONY
O Holy St. Anthony, gentlest of Saints, your love for God and charity for His creatures, made you worthy, when on earth, to possess miraculous powers. Miracles waited on your word, which you were ever ready to speak for those in trouble or anxiety. Encouraged by this thought, I implore of you to obtain for me (request). The answer to my prayer may require a miracle, even so, you are the Saint of Miracles. O gentle and loving St. Anthony, whose heart was ever full of human sympathy, whisper my petition into the ears of the Sweet Infant Jesus, who loved to be folded in your arms; and the gratitude of my heart will ever be yours. (Thank you very much for the graces.)

INQUIRER
TRiViA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

"Kings" for a day

Q. Why is the Feast of the Magi observed on January 6 and not Christmas, the day the Three Kings offered gifts to the baby Jesus?

A. Before the Roman church decided to celebrate Christmas on December 25 in the 4th century, January 6 was the generally accepted anniversary of the Nativity -- it still is as far as the Eastern Orthodox Church is concerned. January 6 was originally the feast of the Baptism in Judea, where Christ was born, but it gradually became associated with his birth and his discovery by the Magi. When December 25 was arbitrarily fixed as Chrisfmas day, January 6 became exclusively the Feast of the Magi. (Of course, the Feast of the Magi is now a movable date, celebrated on the first Sunday after New Year's Day.)

For the Record. The longest recorded reign of any monarch in history is that of Pepi II (also known as Phiops), or Neferkare, a Sixth Dynasty pharaoh of ancient Egypt. His reign is believed to have lasted 94 years, beginning in *circa* 2281 B.C., when he was only six years old. Currently the world's longest-reigning monarch is King Bhumibol Adulyadej (Rama IX) of Thailand, who succeeded to the throne in 1946 at the age of 18.

Past Forward. This day in 1789: George Washington, hero of America's Revolutionary War, was unanimously elected as the first president of the United States.

WORD WATCH

America (uh mer'i kuh) : The word first appeared in *Cosmographiae Introductio* (Introduction to Cosmography), edited and published in 1507 by the German cartographer Martin Waldseemuller. The name was derived from Americus, the Latinized given name of the Italian navigator Amerigo Vespucci, whose expeditions to the New World are described in the work.

PDI -- January 6, 2002

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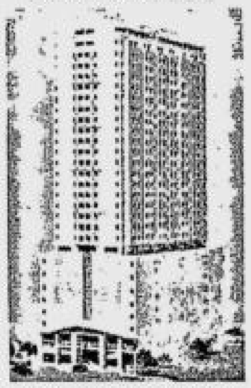

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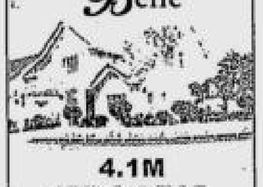

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

CHELO BANAL-FORMOSO, Editor

Michel Legrand to hold Valentine's concerts in Manila

COMPILED BY LITO ZULUETA

LEGENDARY French composer **Michel Legrand** will fill the air with romance when he performs a rare Valentine's Day concert on Feb. 14 and 15 at the PICC. The 69-year-old multi-Oscar, multi-Grammy winner will play most of his memorable hits that span four decades.

Legrand was catapulted to worldwide fame for the music score of the classic French movie, "The Umbrellas of Cherbourg." The theme song, "I Will Wait for You," became the anthem of a generation of romantics. He was then recruited to Hollywood and won his first Oscar for best song with "Windmills of your Mind," the classic theme song of "The Thomas Crown Affair." More Oscars and Grammies came with "What Are You Doing for the Rest of Your Life?" from "Happy Ending," "The Summer Knows" from "The Summer of '42" and "Brian's Song" from the movie of the same title.

In the 1980s, Legrand returned big time when he wrote "How Do You Keep the Music Playing" (performed by **James Ingram** and **Patti Austin**) from the movie "Best Friends" and the soundtrack of **Barbra Streisand**'s "Yentl," in which he collaborated with **Alan** and **Marilyn Bergman**.

Maxi-Media, the Philippine production and promotion company, said it took years of tight negotiation and difficult scheduling to bring Legrand to the Philippines. It's a show not to be missed. Call 551-8999.

Sisters act in new 'Portrait' staging

EXPECT a more exciting Philippine theater scene this year. Perhaps the most awaited production will be the restaging of **Nick Joaquin**'s "Portrait of the Artist as Filipino" with—drum roll, please—**Behn Cervantes** and **Anton Juan** playing the spinster sisters Candida and Paula. Will it take theater to newer heights or deeper lows? *Abangan.*

BEHN Cervantes

ANTON Juan

But this early, it is said the production is mired in trouble because of the prima-donna attitude and volcanic pride of Behn and Anton, who are reportedly at loggerheads over who will portray the younger of the two sisters. The one who lands the role gets to be seduced by the city-slicker character Tony. **Raymond Bagatsing** is being eyed for the part. *Kaya pala.*

We are joking, of course. Behn and Anton are the best of friends.

In sickness and in wealth

ONE cannot but admire this couple who, despite going their separate ways, treat each other as friends. She is the best pal of women in dire aging, weight-gaining straits. He is the leader in alternative music broadcasting. Recently, a trendy upscale jewelry boutique in Makati held a sale and the two reportedly came with their new partners. An exquisite item caught her ravishing eyes, perhaps newly tucked in and lifted by cosmetic surgery. Upon being informed of this, millionaire former husband, without even a frown, made the purchase, proving that estrangement makes the heart—and wallet—grow fonder. If only all former husbands were like him.

Baby bliss

FORMER health undersecretary **Suzie Pineda-**

MICHEL/ p.C6

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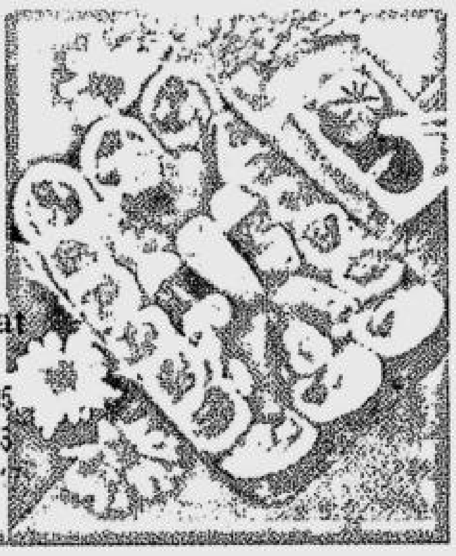

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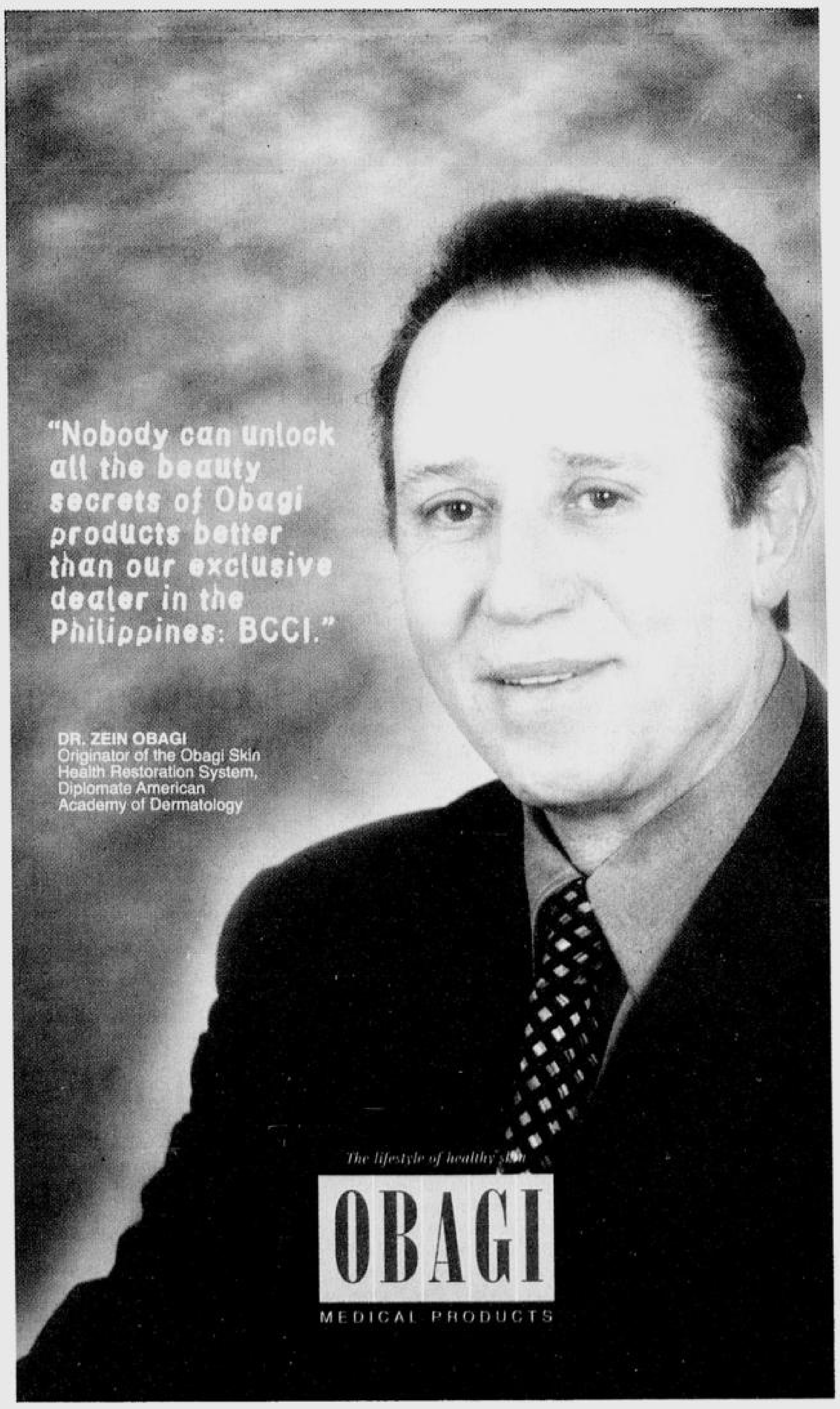

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Happy, poignant moments at Jollibee

WHILE Jollibee serves what most will agree is the best-tasting fastfood fare in town, the well-loved burger chain does not concern itself solely in dishing out great tasting food.

Equally important, Jollibee is also in the business of making people happy, as clearly attested by its new campaign, "Bee Happy."

Day in, day out, Jollibee serves over one million Filipinos who flock to its more than 400 stores all over the country. In ways small and grand, Jollibee's tasty food, cheerful services and friendly crew touch the lives of so many people who leave its stores with happy memories that will last long after that birthday party, first date or even just that simple meal a customer had when he dropped in one rainy day.

These unforgettable real life anecdotes are just a few of those countless happy moments experienced by satisfied Jollibee customers.

Fun and worry-free

"It was fun, really fun!," sums up Angela Valenzuela of her baby's first birthday celebration held at Jollibee. "There were a lot of kids and everything just went smoothly."

Angela is all thumbs up on the way Jollibee organized the birthday bash. According to Angela, the store assigned a party organizer to attend to her and "she was very efficient." "I was asked what we wanted, what our preferences were. And they're very adaptable; no do's and don'ts. You'd feel very *kampante* that everything would go well."

They settled on a "Treasure Adventure" theme for the party. Angela recalls "We brought props—pirate's eye patches and pots of gold—and they basically handled everything. We were not very harassed that day so we were able to really celebrate with the kids. It was just… nice!"

"At home" feeling

Mayhette Mercado whose son Jun-jun eats in Jollibee everyday says the food in Jollibee really makes Jun-jun happy. "He just loves the food—spaghetti, Chickenjoy…"

"Lahat!," Jun-jun butts in.

She also finds Jollibee's service equally remarkable. "*Mababait ang mga empleyado*; they would really make you feel at home. *Talagang* you can feel the love and care!"

An easy switch

Paris Murray, an American who has been a Philippine resident for four years, didn't find it very hard to switch from his erstwhile favorite American burger brand to the distinctly Filipino taste and the cheerful service at Jollibee. "My wife converted me to become a Jollibee fan," he says without hesitation or guilt.

Even at times when he wanted to take his wife to a fancy restaurant, she would plead "Honey, can we eat at Jollibee *na lang*?

Now when Paris has guests from the U.S. or U.K., the first thing he asks them is "Have you eaten at Jollibee? And it's at Jollibee where we usually end up," he concludes.

A shelter from the storm

One very rainy afternoon, a bus full of grade school pupils got stranded on the street with knee-high floodwater. Traffic was moving at a snail's pace as a tropical storm ravaged the city.

When the bus passed by a Jollibee branch, the bus driver asked the children to disembark, saying they would be much safer and more comfortable inside the store. However, since it was late at night, the store was already closed but its staff had not left yet. Erlo Pernia, the store's closing manager at that time, recounts what happened: "*Napansin ko agad yung mga bata* so *tinanong ko sila kung alam ng* parents *nila kung nasaan sila. Nung sinabi nilang hindi pa, pinagamit ko ang* phone *ko* so they can call home."

The kids were already starving by then. But Erlo didn't have anything to offer since the store's kitchen was already closed. "It was they day before our bonus (pay)," he recalls. What he did was he went out and withdrew all his money in his payroll account from a nearby ATM just so he can buy food for the children. Well-fed after a long, wet and harrowing day, the kids finally had a good night's sleep—at the store.

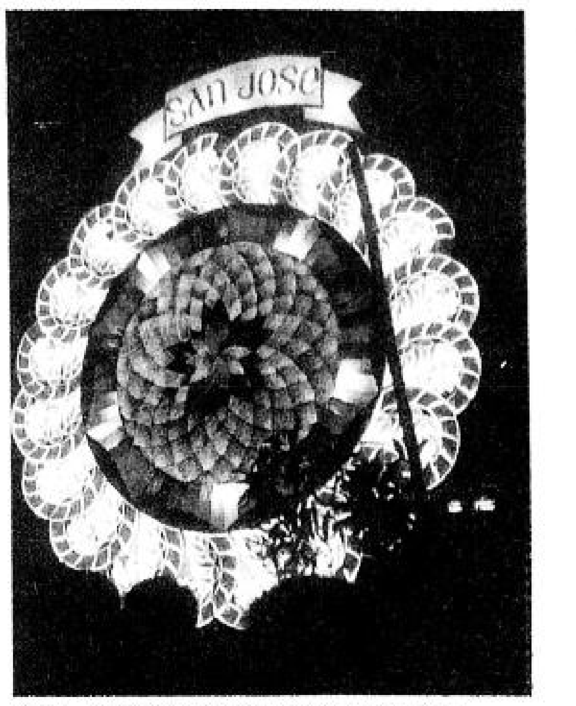
The following day, Erlo got the surprise of his life when the mother of one of the schoolchildren, a popular TV host, thanked him and Jollibee profusely on her TV show. "*Nagulat ako dahil 'di ko alam na anak pala siya ng isa ng* celebrity," he shares. Even with his heroic deed, the humble Erlo shrugs it off, "*Wala sa akin 'yon.*"

These are but a few of the real life stories that take place in Jollibee stores everyday. Although Jollibee customers may have different stories to tell, there's always a common denominator to them, that happy moment that will forever be etched in memory.

The people of Jollibee really get out their way, take the extra mile, just to ensure that its customers are not just well-fed, but fully satisfied and happy. It may be through the food it serves, the fun environment, or even just the wide smiles that greet the customer upon entering the store. Whatever reason it may be, one this is for sure: in every Jollibee visit, every customer can always expect their experience to "Bee Happy!"

ADVT.

WINNERS ALL. Mutya ng Kapampangan 2001 Ma. Cristina Mallari Lacap (center), Second runner-up winner Lailani Dizon Fernandez, first runner-up winner Hazel Marie Singian Pecson, Mutya ng Torismo Christine Lagman Banas and third runner-up Julie Ann Pangan Pangilinan



SAN JOSE'S dazzling entry was the second prizewinner during the Giant Lantern Festival.

Pampanga mall holds beauty pageant and lantern fest

THE MUTYA ng Kapampangan 2001 and the Giant Lantern Festival were recently held at SM City Pampanga.

Maria Christina Mallari Lacap of Masantol was named Mutya ng Kapampangan 2001. Crowned by Pampanga Gov. Lito Lapid, she won P20,000 in cash, P10,000 worth of gift certificates from SM and a two-year scholarship from Mega Computer College.

Other finalists included Mutya ng Mabalacat Hazel Marie Singian Pecson, first runner-up; Mutya ng Guagua Lailani Dizon Fernandez, second runner-up; and Mutya ng San Fernando City Julie Ann Pangan Pangilinan, third runner-up. Mutya ng Santo Tomas Christine Lagman Banas was named Mutya ng Kapampangan Torismo 2001.

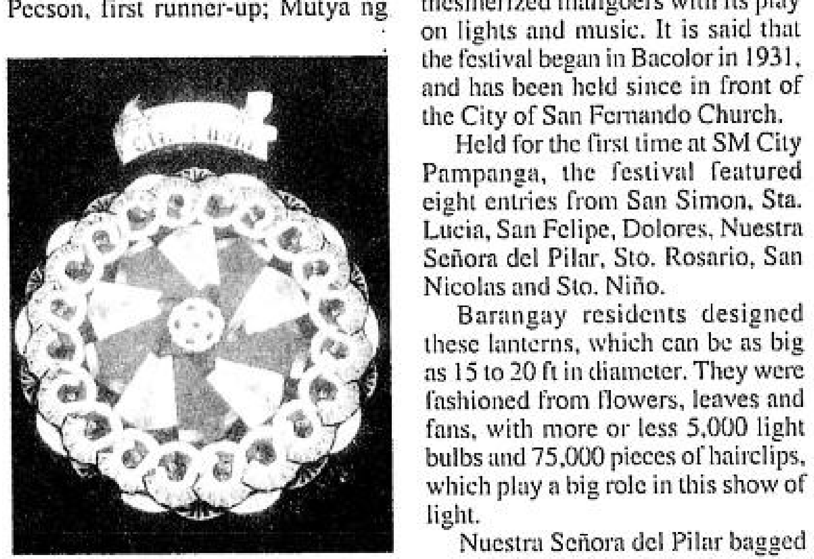
Hosted by Malou Garbes and RW 95.1's Perry Pangan, the event drew an audience from 21 municipalities of Pampanga, including Gov. Lito Lapid, Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo, Rep. Oscar Rodriguez, as well as provincial board members and mayors from the province.

The Giant Lantern Festival also mesmerized mallgoers with its play on lights and music. It is said that the festival began in Bacolor in 1931, and has been held since in front of the City of San Fernando Church.

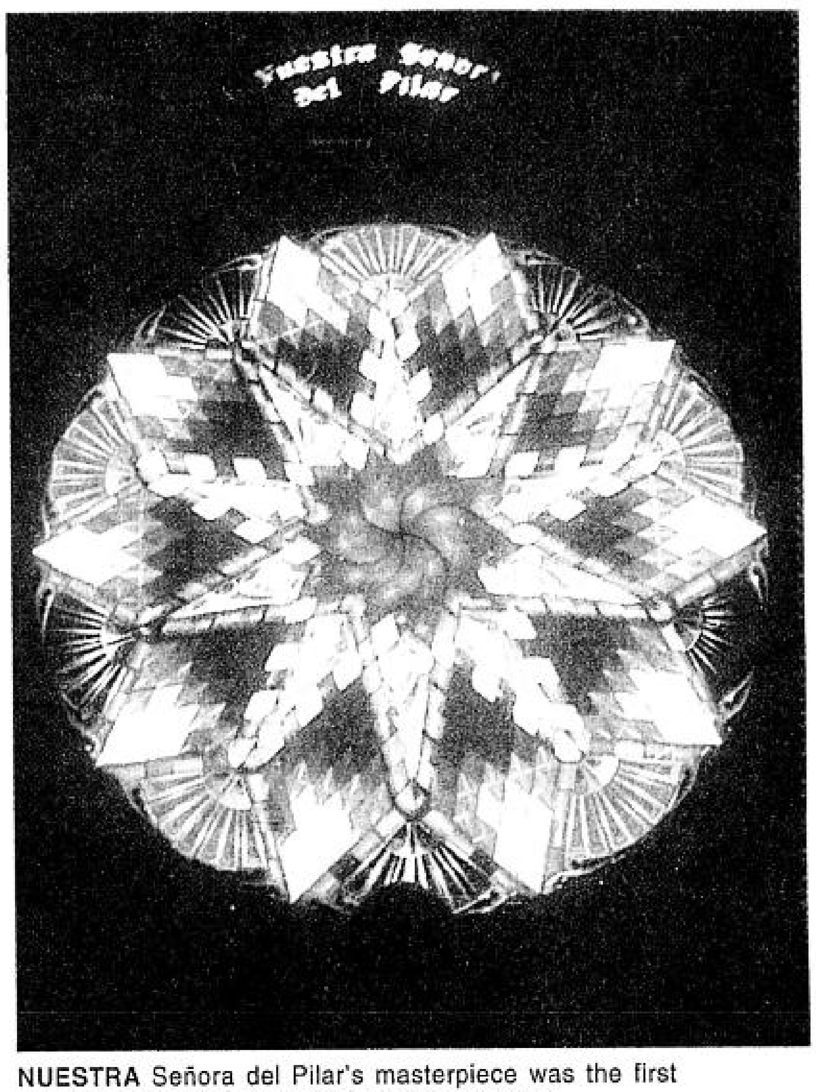
Held for the first time at SM City Pampanga, the festival featured eight entries from San Simon, Sta. Lucia, San Felipe, Dolores, Nuestra Señora del Pilar, Sto. Rosario, San Nicolas and Sto. Niño.

Barangay residents designed these lanterns, which can be as big as 15 to 20 ft in diameter. They were fashioned from flowers, leaves and fans, with more or less 5,000 light bulbs and 75,000 pieces of hairclips, which play a big role in this show of light.

Nuestra Señora del Pilar bagged the first prize, while San Jose and Santa Lucia won the second and third prizes, respectively.



GIANT Lantern Festival's third place winner, Brgy. Sta Lucia



NUESTRA Señora del Pilar's masterpiece was the first prizewinner during the Giant Lantern Festival.

TROPHIES were awarded to the winners by the judges, including SM's Hans Sy, Antolin Paule with Dr. Rey Aquino of San Fernando, Pampanga.

GOV. Lito Lapid and Vice Gov. Mikey Arroyo were the special guests during the Mutya ng Kapampangan 2001 coronation night.

Experts speak on updates on ADHD and autism

DR. Flocerfida de Jesus, clinical assistant and professor of psychiatry at the University of Syracuse in New York, will speak on "ADHD in All Ages vs Bipolar Disorders" at a seminar focusing on updates on attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and autism on Jan. 9, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Occupational Safety and Health Center Auditorium on North Avenue, QC.

The other speakers are Dr. Arturo C. Ludan, a fellow of the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Philippine Pediatric Society and the Philippine Society of Pediatric Gastroenterology and Nutrition, who will speak on dietary supplements in ADHD, and Paul Shattock, O.B.E., director of the Autism Research Unit, University of Sunderland, UK, who will speak on the biomedical approach in the management of autism.

The seminar is being sponsored by the Heartsprings Foundation. Registration fee is P900. Special education students can get a discount upon presentation of their student ID. Call 435-8763 or 929-4242 or e-mail drbabes81@hotmail.com.

'X-Men' festival opens

STAR Movies opened yesterday a unique "X-Men" festival at the Robinsons Galleria. The festival continues as makers of Wolverine and Rogue, Professor X, Storm and other "X-Men" superheroes will be around on Jan. 12.

Some of the highlights of the festival are art talks by "X-Men" cartoonists, autograph-signing, drawing contests and best in costume awards. The "X-Men" fest coincides with the screening of "X-Men," starring Halle Berry (Storm), Hugh Jackman (Wolverine), Patrick Stewart (Charles Xavier), Famke Jannsen (Jean Grey) and Ian McKellen (Magneto) on Star Movies at 9 p.m. on Jan. 13 (with replays on Jan. 20, 24, 26 and 27).

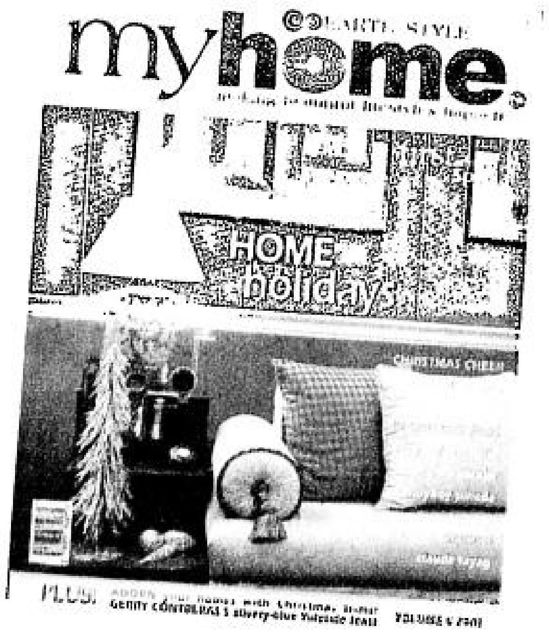
The X-Men are scientific freaks of nature who are feared and loathed by people who cannot accept their being different.

"X-Men" artists Gerry Alanguilan and Lienil Francis Yu formally opened the fest yesterday.

Budget Tan, president of Alamat Komiks, annotated never-before-seen scenes available on the "X-Men" DVD.

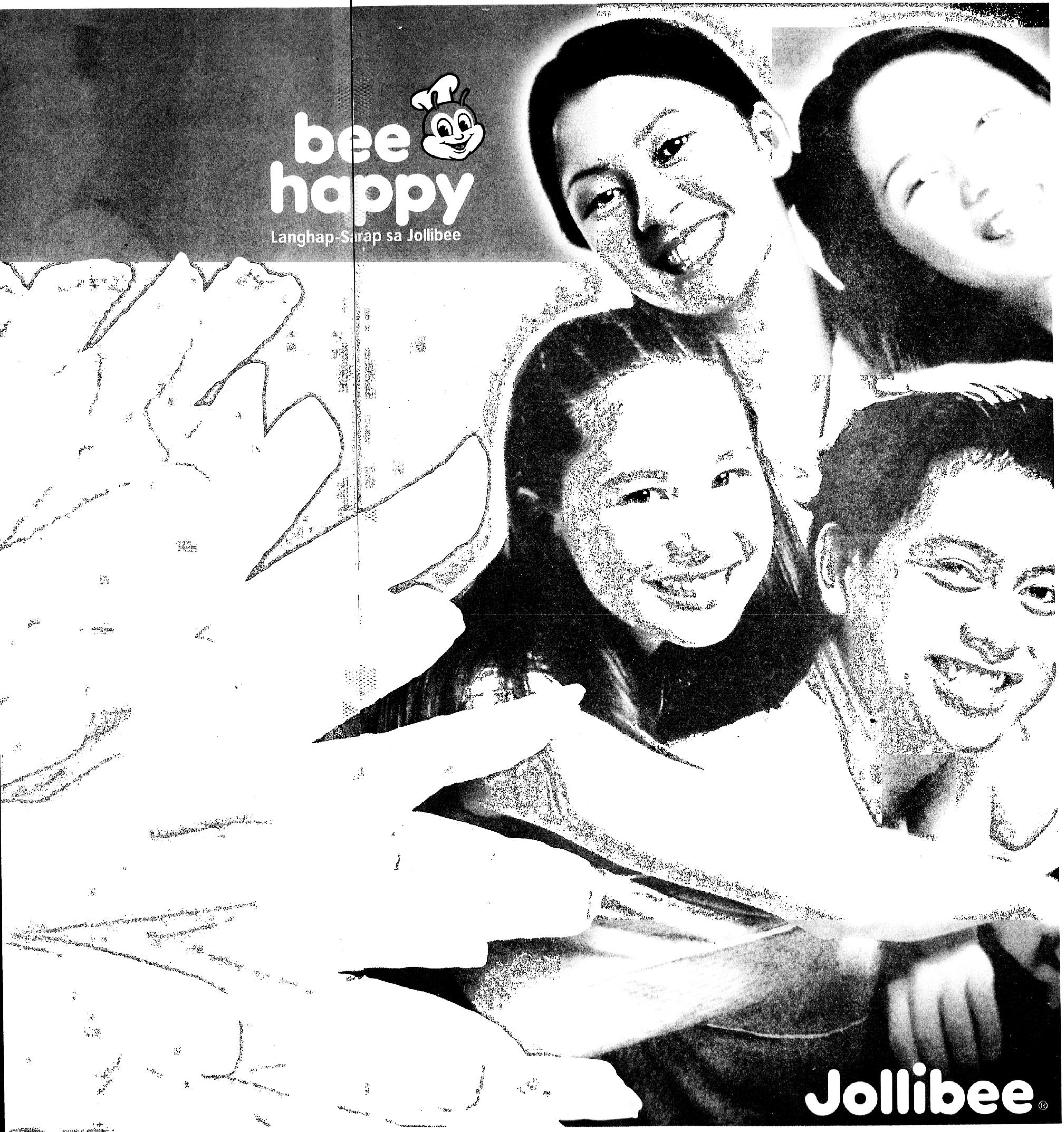
Up for grabs during the festival are Star Movies goodies like cell phone holders and T-shirts, items from Tower Records and "X-Men" comics from Filbar's booth.

HOME MAG FOCUSES ON BACHELORS' PADS



Cosmopolitan men and their living spaces take center stage in the latest issue of My Home magazine's first anniversary special. Featured condominiums include entrepreneur Tonyboy Ongsiako's posh pad, barrister Willyboy Pineda's chic living area and doctor Eric Berberabe's stylish abode. International stylist Rachy Cuna's touch is also visible in a Tagaytay vacation home, in addition to sculptor-cum-landscape artist Claude Tayag's awe-inspiring gardens in Pampanga. Under the "entertaining" section, PIID president Gerry Contreras boasts of beautiful table settings guaranteed to enhance one's appetite.

Published by Earth+Style Corporation, the lifestyle property developer, with Mega Magazine and Publications Inc (MMPI), Earth+Style My Home continues to make beautiful Filipino lifestyles happen by providing tools necessary to cope with today's fast-paced environment. Earth+Style My Home is available bi-monthly in newsstands, bookstores and specialty shops nationwide for P125.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Eulogy for a comfort friend

BY MARICHU MACEDA

(Editor's Note: The following was delivered by Marichu Maceda at the necrological services held Jan. 2 at the home of House Speaker Jose de Venecia and wife Gina for Marissa Hernandez, the Speaker's communications director and Marichu's bosom friend of 47 years.)

LET me tell you a story about two friends.

Some time last year, one of my daughters-in-law called me on the phone to ask me if I had comfort food for her husband. She said my son was on his way over to my house to eat.

I asked her, what is comfort food? She said: "Mom, it's the food that you always prepare; the food he always ate even as a little child. He has to have it at least once a week. I call it his comfort food."

I realized we each have comfort zones in our lives. It could be a favorite jacket, like JDV's favorite light blue. Or even a favorite night gown or duster, like my sister Gina's favorite blue-and-white printed duster, holes and all; or my mother's favorite *zapatillas*, which we send to Besa's whenever it looks so tattered.

While I have a few treasured friends, I had one "comfort friend." My comfort friend was Marissa.

My definition of a comfort friend is one with whom you have shared most of your experiences, both good and bad. Someone who knows you through and through. Tested and true. It's usually a childhood friend, or a classmate from grade school or high school—someone who you never lose touch with all your life. That was Marissa to me.

I met her in 1954, 47 years ago. We were both in first year high school at the Assumption. I had just come from St. Paul's.

I was drawn to Marissa because I liked her page-boy hairstyle. I could never get my hair to look like that.

Soon, we were inseparable. We formed a group called The Big Six—which eventually became the Big Five-and-a-half, because of Marissa who was so tiny. We became each other's fiercest supporters. She was Jerry and I was Tom. I was Mutt and she was Jeff. We were so much alike, and yet, so different in many ways.

I was the fighter, she was the peacemaker.

I was the leader, she was the follower.

I was the realist, she was the dreamer.

I was fire, she was water.

I was the typhoon, she was the gentle breeze.

We were each other's guardian angel and each other's tormentor as well.

'We were each other's guardian angel and each other's tormentor as well'

I was born on Dec. 23, 1942. She was born June 23, 1943. I was exactly six months older than Marissa. We used to take that little bit of trivia for granted. Today it has new meaning.

Always there

And so time passed and we traveled our journeys, not necessarily together all the time, but always in touch with each other. We saw each other through our marriages, raising our children and enjoying our grandchildren.

No one knew me better than Marissa did. Neither did anyone know her better than I. We were always there for each other, no matter how difficult or ridiculous the situation. We shared our laughter. We shared our tears.

Two incidents stand out.

About seven years ago, Marissa called me at around 1 a.m. to tell me her husband Ben was killed in their farmhouse in Tanay. She had been separated from Ben for a number of years.

Without asking any questions, I said: "*Halika na. Daanan mo ako. Sasamahan kita doon.*"

She picked me up. With her at the wheel, we drove all the way to Tanay at 1:30 a.m. We then proceeded to the police station and then to the hospital where I had to identify the body.

Because there were many matters to resolve, we had to drive up to Tanay every day, to go to the police station and follow up the case.

One day, in front of the chief of police, I started interrogating her *katiwala*, Lita, who was in the farmhouse the night Ben was killed. I got Lita to confess she had planned the murder, together with four other men whom Ben had hired a month earlier to help in the farm. Marissa and I were both stunned by the revelations.

About a week later, after those long daily trips to the investigators in Tanay, I heard a rumor they were considering Marissa as the possible mastermind. I was furious. I never felt so offended in my life. My friend, Marissa, who only sees the good in everyone, was being made to look like a suspect.

MARISSA Hernandez

I got into this mode which used to drive Marissa crazy. When someone dear to me is unjustly accused, I go ballistic. She knew it. She told me to please just stay home and that eventually the truth would surface. Of course, we argued. But whenever I am in that frame of mind, I never allow anyone to win an argument.

That very same day, I got her to agree to drive me to the police station in Tanay. All throughout our trip there, she kept begging me not to confront the chief of police. I did not answer her.

As soon as we got there, I went straight to the chief of police. Immediately, I was doing an aria, in straight English. This is what happens when I'm in that "mode." My arguments spill out in eloquent English. And Marissa knew that only too well. That was her fear.

I demanded that the chief of police investigate Ben's medical condition when he was killed. A few months before the incident, Marissa had told me Ben had cirrhosis of the liver and he only had a few months to live.

There was a broadcaster there who had first spread the news in his radio program. He came after me to ask where he could interview Marissa. I snapped at him: "No, you can't interview my friend, because you have an evil mind."

With that, I turned around and stormed back to the car, where Marissa was waiting for me. "*Bru*, let's go," I said.

As we drove back to Manila, Marissa told me: "*Bru, takot na takot ako. Nag-Ingles ka ba?*"

I said "yes."

And she said: "*Naku, sabi ko na nga ba. Hinihintay ko na lang lumabas iyong pulis para sabihin sa akin na nakulong ka na.*"

I laughed.

She continued: "*Bru, malalim ba iyong* Ingles *mo?*"

I cracked up. She kept on with her nervous questions. And I laughed even more.

The second incident was in the year 2000. I told her I was going to Las Vegas to get my divorce. The very next day, she called to tell me "*Bru, bumili na ako ng* ticket *ko. Sasamahan kita.*"

She knew I needed her company. She planned it all, quietly, efficiently. "Anyway you are first going to San Francisco," she told me. "Let us just meet in Las Vegas. I will pick you up at the airport." I was feeling very low and very sad at that time. It is always painful to close an important chapter in one's life. Marissa knew that. She felt my pain. She was ready to stand by me. That was Marissa.

We made arrangements by phone. And when my plane landed in Las Vegas and I walked off the airplane, there she was standing by the gate, her sunshine smile on her face as she greeted me: "Hi, *Bru. Maganda ba ako ngayon?*" I had to laugh! She brought me the comfort I needed. And I stopped feeling sorry for myself.

That is how it was with the two of us. We just knew when we needed each other. We knew also when to give each other space.

These past few years, Marissa became close to my sister Gina and a staunch and devoted ally of JDV (House Speaker Jose de Venecia).

I was so happy about that because these are three people I love deeply. I was so proud of her because through her own merits, they gave her the recognition she so genuinely deserved.

On Dec. 14, a group of 19 went to Hong Kong for a few days. Marissa and I were with the group. Just before leaving Dasma for the airport, I announced to everyone I wanted to room with Marissa—"*Kasi, Bru,*" I told her, "*matagal na tayong hindi nag*-bonding. Miss *ko na ikaw, alam mo ba iyan?*"

JDV heard us and asked, "What does *bru* mean?" I explained. I said: "*Bru* is short for *bruha*. I am known as Bru Sr. and Marissa is Bru Jr."

Like kids again

In Hong Kong, we were like two kids again, sharing the same room, staying up late at night just talking. She told me how happy she was that all her children were settled. She talked about how much joy her grandchildren gave her, specially her eldest, little Marissa. We both talked about our eldest grandchildren, her little Marissa and my Alexandra, whom we call Beanie. We both agreed this was the best time of our lives. We were both deeply happy with our families and our careers. I told her how proud I was of her.

Before we left for Manila, I convinced her to have a black cashmere coat made, just like mine. Gina joined in and so there were three identical coats, same fabric, same cut.

We were so happy, almost carefree in Hong Kong. Everything seemed to be going our way. There was no trace nor shadow of the sadness that was soon to come.

On Dec. 27 we learned the unexpected and tragic news that Marissa had met a fatal accident in Los Angeles. She had gone to spend Christmas with her children and grandchildren. It was to be a joyous time.

The next day, Gina, Nikki and I flew to Los Angeles to see Marissa for the last time. When I entered the mortuary I could not get myself to go near her casket nor look at her. I just sat down and mentally started scolding Marissa for having left without saying goodbye. At the same time, I was asking the Lord to give me the strength to let her go.

I felt someone sit right next to me. It was little Marissa. She took my hand and held it and said: "You are the only one who has not approached my *lola*. I know you are her special friend. You know you really have to because she expects you to do so."

I said: "Yes, I will. Just give me a little more time. I can't let go of her yet."

Then I told little Marissa how her *lola* used to always speak about her and how we always exchanged stories about her and about my own eldest *apo*.

Little Marissa asked: "What is your eldest grandchild's name?"

"Alexandra," I said. "We call her Beanie."

"How old is she," she asked.

"Twelve," I said.

"Oh, 12, just like me. When is her birthday?" she asked.

I answered: "Feb. 13. She was born in 1989."

Little Marissa was quiet for a moment. And then she said, "Oh, my birthday is Aug. 13. And I was also born in 1989. Your granddaughter is exactly six months older than I am."

I do not believe in coincidences. I believe God has a plan.

It has occurred to me this is His hand—and this is Marissa's way of reassuring me that our bond of friendship has not been broken, that the bond between us will live on—through our grandchildren.

This year, hopefully on some long weekend, I intend to ask permission from my son and daughter-in-law to allow me to bring Alexandra to Los Angeles so I can introduce her to little Marissa. It is my fervent hope that some day, they each find their own "comfort friend."

The Lord works in mysterious ways, His wonders to perform. Who knows, they may just end up as each other's comfort friend and continue the journey that their two *lolas* once traveled together.

There are lessons to be learned from this deep and painful sadness.

First, that life is fragile. Friendship is precious. We must not take anything or anyone for granted. Do not leave for tomorrow what you can do today. Do not leave your words of love unspoken. Acknowledge and appreciate those you love. Tell them that you do. Touch while the touching is good. Reach out and tell someone "You mean something to me—I love you." Don't wait for tomorrow. It may just not be there for you.

We have lost Marissa, but only for a while. Our loss is heaven's gain. With all my heart, I believe that someday, I will see my "comfort friend" again.

Until then, *bru*, miss *kita. Mahal kita.*

Opus Dei marks founder's centenary

BY ANDREW SOANE

(The original article appeared in Catholic Life, published in Dublin, Ireland.)

A HUNDREDTH anniversary is always a good time to take stock. On Jan. 9, the centenary of the birth of the founder of Opus Dei, Blessed Josemaria Escriva, will be celebrated.

Father Escriva was born in Spain in 1902, the second of six children. His childhood was generally happy, but not without sorrow. By the time he was a teenager, he had seen his three younger sisters fall ill and die in consecutive years. In 1915, his father's textile business went bankrupt and he brought his family to another town to find work.

In January 1917, after a heavy snowfall, Josemaria saw some bare footprints on the snow left by a Discalced Carmelite friar. Moved by this, he decided to become a priest. Ordained in Saragossa in 1925, he went to Madrid where his pastoral responsibilities brought him into daily contact with sickness and poverty in the hospitals and the poor districts of Spain's capital.

Father Escriva was doing a retreat at the house of the Vincentian Fathers when he clearly saw the job God wanted him to do: to remind all men and women that everyone was called to holiness. This is why the date of the founding of the Opus Dei is precise: Oct. 2, 1928.

At first, the priest's foundation had no name. It finally had its identity in 1930 when Father Escriva's spiritual director asked him how his work of God was coming along. The Latin phrase *Opus Dei* means just that: work of God. Its message is that God can and should be found through one's everyday work and social life. In other words, you do not have to leave ordinary life to be holy. Although this message is now familiar, at the time it raised eyebrows.

Spreading 'heresy'

Years later, Father Escriva would write: "When a poor, 26-year-old priest began to say that sanctity was not only for monks, for the religious and for priests, but for all Christians, they said that that priest was a heretic."

JOSEMARIA Escriva

The point that could easily be missed was that there was no second-class sanctity. Father Escriva was saying that ordinary lay Christians could be and should be heroic like the greatest saints such as St. John of the Cross and St. Thomas More. But the heroism asked of the ordinary Christian had to be shown in ordinary things of everyday life.

Inseparably linked to the universal call to holiness is the call to evangelization. Lay Catholics are called to the frontline of the Church's work to bring the Gospel to the world, not because of some special request of the bishops, but because it is an essential part of a baptized Christian's vocation.

Managing to avoid arrest during the Civil War in Spain, Father Escriva escaped across the Pyrenees to Andorra, then to Lourdes. On his return to Spain, he settled in Burgos, where he could openly carry out his pastoral work.

In 1941, Opus Dei received diocesan approval from the bishop of Madrid. Father Escriva moved to Rome in 1946 and oversaw the expansion of Opus Dei. The group received its first pontifical approval from Pius XII in 1947 and in 1950, it was allowed to admit married people.

The message of Opus Dei, Latin for work of God, is that God can and should be found through one's everyday work

A divine vocation

From the beginning, Father (later Monsignor) Escriva had taught that marriage was a divine vocation, another novel idea to his listeners at the time although it seems natural enough today. He said all people belonging to Opus Dei, married and single, priests and lay people, men and women, were equally called to heroic sanctity, and were equally faithful to Opus Dei.

Monsignor Escriva was overjoyed when the Second Vatican Council (1962-1965) reaffirmed the universal call to holiness of all the baptized.

By the time of Monsignor Escriva's death on June 26, 1975, Opus Dei had spread worldwide with over 56,000 members in over 30 countries. The monsignor was beatified by Pope John Paul II in May 1992, 17 years after his death.

In 1982, the Pope established Opus Dei as a Personal Prelature. Bishop Alvaro del Portillo, who succeeded Monsignor Escriva as the group's leader, became its first Prelate. At present, the prelature, which has about 84,000 faithful, men and women of all ages and backgrounds, mostly married, living in over 60 countries, is headed by Bishop Javier Echevarria. The Opus Dei Prelature provides followers with formation and support to strive for holiness and carry out an apostolate wherever they are. Many cooperators help Opus Dei throughout the world, some of them non-Catholic or even non-Christian.

An Italian author said a useful parallel to Opus Dei's work of providing formation and support was the service provided by a gas station, where people go for refueling before driving off again. You could find other things in the service station, but the petrol was the important thing. In Opus Dei, the formation given is both collective—in groups—and individual, tailored to the specific needs of each person.

High-profile work

Although Opus Dei's various corporate undertakings are often mentioned in the press, they are not the most important undertakings of Opus Dei. But they attract attention because of their visibility. They include educational institutions at different levels, and other educational and social projects.

Like other enterprises, they conform to local regulations, submit accounts and rely for their upkeep on the generosity of others, principally the kindness of the Opus Dei faithful themselves, but also other people who appreciate what they do.

Opus Dei members are everywhere, working in offices, in factories, newspapers. They are housewives, charity workers, miners and fathers. Most are married and some are single. A small number of Opus Dei priests serve their fellow faithful.

People belonging to the Prelature do not wear badges or special clothes. They do not go into a workplace and shout that they are in Opus Dei. But if you and they share a minimum of friendship, you will soon know about their affiliation and they will happily tell you whatever you want to know about the group. You will recognize them because they are committed Catholics, cheerful and hardworking, or at least trying to be.

For more information on Opus Dei in the Philippines, contact the Office of Information, 152 M Domingo St., Cubao, 1111 QC

Michel Legrand to hold Valentine's concerts in Manila

(From page C1)

Mercado gave birth to a healthy baby in the United States. It's her first with former defense secretary **Orly Mercado**. The fall of the Estrada administration and Orly's failed Senate comeback afforded them the chance to concentrate on having a baby.

Union boss

? THE UNION president of a five-star hotel in Makati is drunk with power. He told the general assembly that he was instrumental in easing out the hotel's marketing head, reciting a litany of the latter's shortcomings. But the union leader hardly leads by example. He eats a king's meal at the pool side, pressured management to grant his relatives a discount on phone charges when they checked out, questioned the probation policy when it affected his nephew (nepotism?) and uses the official union vehicle for family trips. He does not even work. He's on leave 365 days a year.

From the reader

THIS is in reply to the Week Waker-upper item titled "Port of thieves" (PDI Lifestyle, 11/18/01).

Even before the matter was published in your daily, our Batangas port manager, lawyer **Edgar C. Pilar**, had already investigated the verbal complaint of **Ramon Jose Borromeo**, who claimed to have lost his car plate while his car was parked on the pay parking area inside the port. The facts follow.

Borromeo, claiming to be a media man, parked his car—a Mitsubishi Galant, model 1992, with plate number TEB 725—at the Batangas port pay parking area from Nov. 5-10. Arriving from Puerto Galera, he went to the teller to pay for the parking fees and found the amount too high, saying, "*Ang mahal naman ng babayaran ko, nawala pa ang plaka ko.*" He haggled for a discount. When told he could not be given a discount due to government regulations, he grudgingly paid the parking fees, amounting to P1,230 (five days and two hours), saying, "*Ang mahal naman ng babayaran ko, nawala na nga ang plaka ko. Hindi bale ipararadyo ko na lang kayo!*"

Borromeo was then invited to the PPA police office to formally report his allegation, but declined since he was in a hurry to go home.

Our findings: 1) The car was parked on the third slot, left portion leading to the entrance gate of passenger terminal building III, facing the wall, a place very visible to the security guard on duty; 2) detaching the car plate would require considerable time, which would be impossible to go unnoticed by the security guard and other persons passing the area during daytime. The two side gates leading to the parking area are closed from 7 p.m.-9 a.m.; 3) the detachment commander of Lockheed Detective and Watchman Agency said there were no tell-tale marks that would indicate the plate was detached; the plate might have been missing for quite some time.

We are not shirking away from our responsibility, but by refusing to shed light on his allegation, Borromeo appears feigning the loss as a bargaining chip to gain a discount on the parking fees. We are trying to contact Borromeo so that he can file a complaint. We invite the PDI to be there when Borromeo makes his appearance.

HECTOR E. MIOLE
Port District Manager
Philippine Ports Authority

Prices at promo sales increased during holidays

IT'S not good business practice to change prices in the middle of a promotional sale, as some establishments did over the holidays. It's one way of losing customers who feel they are being cheated.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

Two of our known consumer rights advocates share their experiences. They had made early reservations to avail of discounted promotional prices. But when they were claiming their reservations, they discovered that the advertised sale prices had been increased without notice.

Vic del Fierro Jr., president of the Coalition for Consumer Protection and Welfare, recalled that he had made hotel room reservations a month early to take advantage of the special Christmas promo rates. "I wanted to avoid the toxic smoke and noise of firecrackers during the holidays," Del Fierro said. When he confirmed his reservations, however, he was told that his booking had been upgraded from about P2,500 to P3,500.

Hoping for better luck on New Year, Del Fierro made several advanced bookings at Makati hotels offering holiday promo rates. But when he was going to check in on Dec. 31 at the hotel in Ayala commercial center, he found out that the P2,500 promo rooms were no longer available. The only room that was ready for occupancy was the P17,000 state suite, he was told.

Del Fierro complained, "All the other Makati hotels offering promo rates for the holiday season had no available room with promo rates, even for people who made prior reservations. If that is not sheer deceptive practice, I don't know how it is called."

Sale at photo shop

Benjie Angeles, vice president of Food Terminal Inc., was attracted by the sign advertising a Christmas sale of an Olympus 382115 with telephoto lens at a photo shop in Grand Festival Mall. From the regular price of P8,999, it was on sale for P7,999. Angeles did not have enough cash at the time so he had it reserved. However, when he was going to buy it two days later, the sale price had been changed to P8,299. Neither argument nor pleas convinced the store managers to sell the camera at the original sale price.

If you ask our opinion, that is another deceptive practice.

Brand-new computer with defects?

GEORGE Moberg of Pangasinan bought the advertised AceTech MP5715H from a computer shop at Park Square, Makati, and brought it home all the way to Dagupan in a hired taxi. Being a nontechnical person, he had to hire an engineer from a local computer shop to unpack and set up the unit.

"I thought everything was going to work fine, but then the engineer found out that there was something wrong with the modem and the A-drive," Moberg wrote to us. The A-drive had to be cleaned several times before it finally functioned.

Moberg added that when the engineer complained to the Manila store, he was advised to repack everything and deliver it to Pampanga where the defective modem would be sent to Manila for "possible" replacement.

Moberg estimated that it would take three weeks to one month before he can use the computer. He asked, "How could I have bought a brand-new computer, bring it home in a hired taxi, hire a professional to set it up, and have it repaired before I can use it for the first time?"

We hope that ElectroWorld Computer Store has replaced Moberg's computer with a brand-new modem without glitches.

Calling Meralco

WE complained before Christmas about the leaning electric post on Singalong Street. We were told that several Meralco repairmen have visited the termite-infested post and filed their report. The leaning post is still there. The last guy who checked the post admitted there was a need to change the connections of the wires. Residents are asking how long it will take to replace the electric post.

Calling Maynilad

MILA Alora (Maynilad acct. no. 0007808001-3, meter no. 0000104259) griped that no action has been taken on her complaint about the sudden increase in her bill. She is now calling on the president of Maynilad, hoping to get some action done. She wrote: "I have called the PR department, which referred my complaint to the appropriate department. To date, I have yet to see action on my complaint.

"What was the basis of the reading when there was no meter to read in the first place? The old MWSS meter was stolen, so I had another one installed by Maynilad. Unfortunately, the new meter (along with other meters in the neighborhood) was again stolen within a year and this was promptly reported to Maynilad.

"My bill ranged from P95 to P130. Now it is P271.73. What was the basis of computation?"

Website about food and services

WE'RE excited to pass on this letter to consumers who want to share views and information, or just to talk about food and services. Virginia Braga of PEx Inc. (Rm. 411 Makati Stock Exchange, Makati City) wrote:

"I came across your column yesterday and thought you might be interested to read some of the posts on our website (PinoyExchange.com) regarding complaints about the food and services of different local restaurants. You mentioned in your article that you have yet to come across a local survey regarding food and dining out. We actually have a forum called Food and Drinks where our community members post their views about different food-related topics.

"For the complete posts, you may go to PinoyExchange.com or to this URL which will take you directly to those posts. http://www. pinoyexchange. com/forums/showthread.php3?s=&threadid=12546.

"We also have other forums that discuss several other consumer issues, and our community members are always willing to voice out their opinion. Our database is filled with millions of posts about different topics. You may want to utilize the PinoyExchange community in conducting consumer surveys and the like. Please feel free to contact us at PinoyExchange.com or through 752-5945."

E-mail the author at mgiron@csi.com.ph

She hates her philandering brother-in-law and is disappointed with her sister

LIVE AND LET LIVE

Tita Dulce

DEAR Tita Dulce,

I have a brother-in-law who has hurt my sister for too long. He philandered years ago but was forgiven after he swore never to do it again. Last year, it was found out that he has been maintaining another woman and their love child in a townhouse a few blocks away from the house of his legal family. He then brought the child and the woman to his hometown. When confronted, he swore he was "forced" by the other woman. My sister has not slept well for six months now since she learned about that other woman.

He is also being sued by credit card companies for nonpayment of almost half a million pesos, and my sister is now a codefendant, although his debts did not accrue to the benefit of the conjugal property. He owes someone else half a million pesos in which he used my sister's name as guarantor. Because he says he has other obligations, my sister is left to pay mortgages to maintain family properties.

He has been abusing my sister financially and emotionally. But my sister loves him too much, she just can't let go. It is definitely their own business and my concern should only be up to how much my sister would want me to get involved. But how do I get rid of my hatred for my brother-in-law and my frustration with my sister who has so much love for him and so little respect for herself?

NENA

You are right. Their marital and financial problems are theirs, and not yours. I'm sure that early on they were offered good advice, but since their problems persist or recur, it means they have chosen to do it their way.

With couples like them, the problem is not the presence of women who are willing to be mistresses or the lack of funds to pay off debts; the problem, rather, is the couple themselves or, more specifically, the kind of persons they are. The solution, of course, is for them to reform their views of themselves, of each other, and of the world.

But since they are the cause of their problems, since they are the ones suffering from them, and since they have in themselves the real solutions to those problems, then their problems cannot be anyone else's but theirs.

You and your sister's children are, of course, affected by the couple's problems. But you and the children have a different problem—not marital infidelity or unpaid debts but how to relate to the couple and how to deal with the problems that affect you.

In your case (and most likely their children's case, too), the problem is how to deal with your hatred for your brother-in-law and your frustration with your sister.

How to get rid of those two problems? I don't think you should aim for that at all. He has been doing hateful things, so it is understandable to hate him (or at least the things he does). And she has been disappointingly indecisive and weak, so it is normal to be frustrated with her.

When you know in your heart that your emotions toward them are valid, then you'll only be offending your own sense of fairness if you try to get rid of those emotions. So keep them. Keep them, however, in fair amounts, too.

Don't let hatred and frustration make your blood pressure rise, or distract you from important tasks, or rob you of your sleep and appetite, or ruin your day, or make you pray that lightning strikes them to bring her back to her senses and to reduce him to basic carbons. When your hatred for your brother-in-law does such things to you, then that hatred hurts and damages not him but you. If you don't like him, then why give him power over you? And if your sister is already hurting and damaging her and her children, why let her hurt and damage you as well?

Remember that your hatred for your brother-in-law will not make him and the problems he created disappear. Also, your frustration with your sister will not make her a better person.

So, hate your brother-in-law in a way that, each time he crosses your mind, you can dismiss the thought as easily as you shoo away a fly.

And whenever you feel frustrated with your sister, keep in mind that you are frustrated with her, not with yourself. Her problems persist, but not because you failed to solve them. And view your frustration as temporary setbacks, not as permanent defeat. Don't lose hope that someday, she will see the light and she will call out to you.

E-mail titadulce@netscape.net or send letters to P.O. Box 2353, Makati CPO 1263 Makati City, or PDI, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City

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3. Drop entries at designated dropboxes located in participating supermarkets, or mail to: Proteksyong Kumpleto, Pamilyang Panalo" c/o Guaranteed Marketing Services (GMS), Inc. at 350 Dr. Fernandez St., Mandaluyong City.
4. Promo period is from December 1, 2001 to February 28, 2002. Deadline for dropping of entries is on February 28, 2002. Mailed entries should be received not later than March 12, 2002.
5. Raffle draw will be held on March 14, 2002, 2:00pm at Guaranteed Marketing Services, Inc., at 350 Dr. Fernandez St., Mandaluyong City.
6. A consumer may win only once in the raffle. If a name is drawn more than once, the winner shall get the prize in the higher prize category [(1) Educational Plan, (2) Home Improvement Plan, (3) Sari-sari Store Package]
7. Winners will be notified by phone and via registered mail by GMS. They may claim their prizes beginning March 30, 2002 at Guaranteed Marketing Services, Inc. Manila, or in the GMS area office to be specified in the registered mail.
8. All prizes are tax-free.
9. When claiming prizes, winners will be required to present the registered mail and any 2 of the following ID's: Passport, Driver's License, Company/School ID.
10. All winners may claim their prizes within 60 days from notification. Prizes unclaimed after the prescribed period shall be forfeited in favor of CPPI, with prior approval from DTI.
11. Prizes are non-transferrable except the Educational Plan Package.
12. All prizes are not convertible to cash.
13. Promotion is not open to any employees of CPPI, its advertising and promotion agencies, its authorized distributors, and all participating supermarkets, including their owners and their relatives up to the 2nd degree of consanguinity or affinity.
14. The decision of CPPI with concurrence of DTI is final.

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This multi-player game, for 5-7 players, lets you get together with your friends and control armies of hobbits, humans, and elves. You must join forces to stop the marauding Orc army. Text BOM to 2324 to start the battle. BOM ▸ 2324

Lord of the Rings Mobile Fantasy is in the Fun & Games category of myGlobe. With so many other services in myGlobe, all neatly organized for access, there's just no limit to what you can do.

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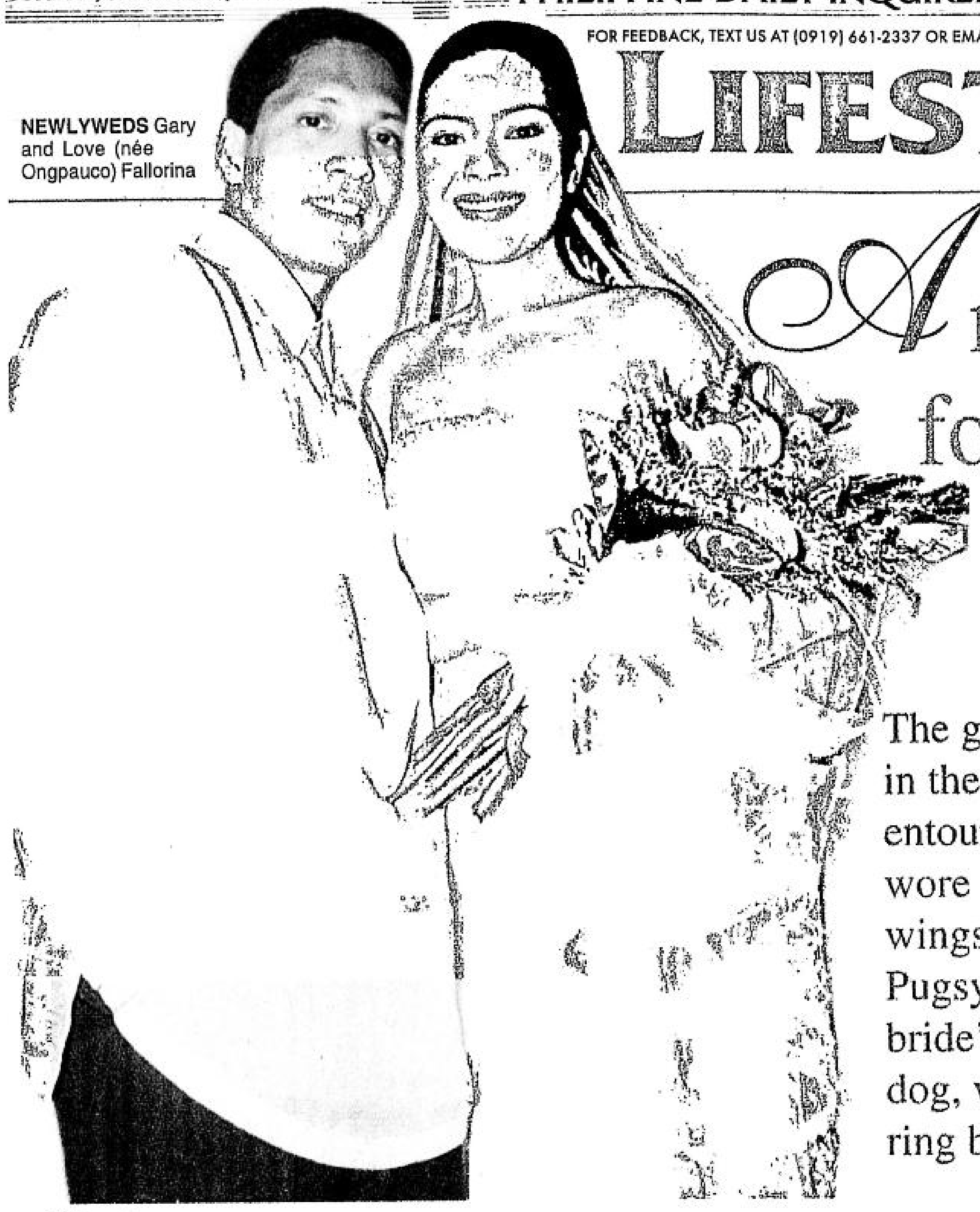


NEWLYWEDS Gary and Love (née Ongpauco) Fallorina

A romantic garden wedding for a bride named Love

The girls in the entourage wore wings, and Pugsy, the bride's pet dog, was ring bearer

BRIDESMAIDS Rissa Villanueva, Geraldine Rojales and Mae Tan with groomsmen Rico Tecson, Carlo Velasco and Bo Garcia

By Donnie C. Ramirez
Contributor

EVERYTHING had the look and feel of the Yuletide season when Gary James Fallorina and Love Chantel Ongpauco exchanged "I dos" at a romantic garden wedding officiated by Pastor Tito Pel of the Church of Christ.

Amid the lush greenery of the Fernwood Gardens in Quezon City, Gary and Love vowed to spend a lifetime loving God and each other.

The bride is the eldest of three daughters of restaurateur Rod Ongpauco (of Barrio Fiesta's crispy *pata* and Singing Cooks and Waiters fame) and former Sampaguita Pictures star Liberty Ilagan. She graduated from the Assumption College with a degree in mass communications.

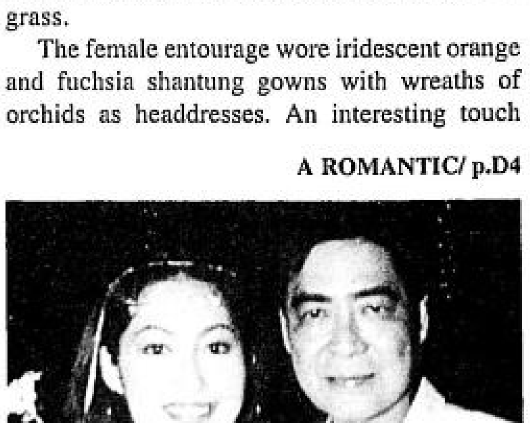
The tall, dark and good-looking Gary is the son of real estate bigwig Gilbert Fallorina Sr. and the former Elena Santos. He was educated in the University of California in Berkeley, major in business and finance.

Principal sponsors were Speaker Jose de Venecia and his wife Gina, local cinema's comedy king Dolphy, Quezon Gov. Wilfredo Enverga; the bride's aunts, Cora Tamayo, Victory Rousette and Maria Fe Gibbs; New Yorker Manny Bemabe and Lily Exorhos, broadcaster Angelo Castro Jr., Alfredo Gloria, Ed Guthrie, Solita McKinnis, Venerando Santos, Evelyn Pozon, Roger Tandiama and sisters Consuelo and Cristina Cauton.

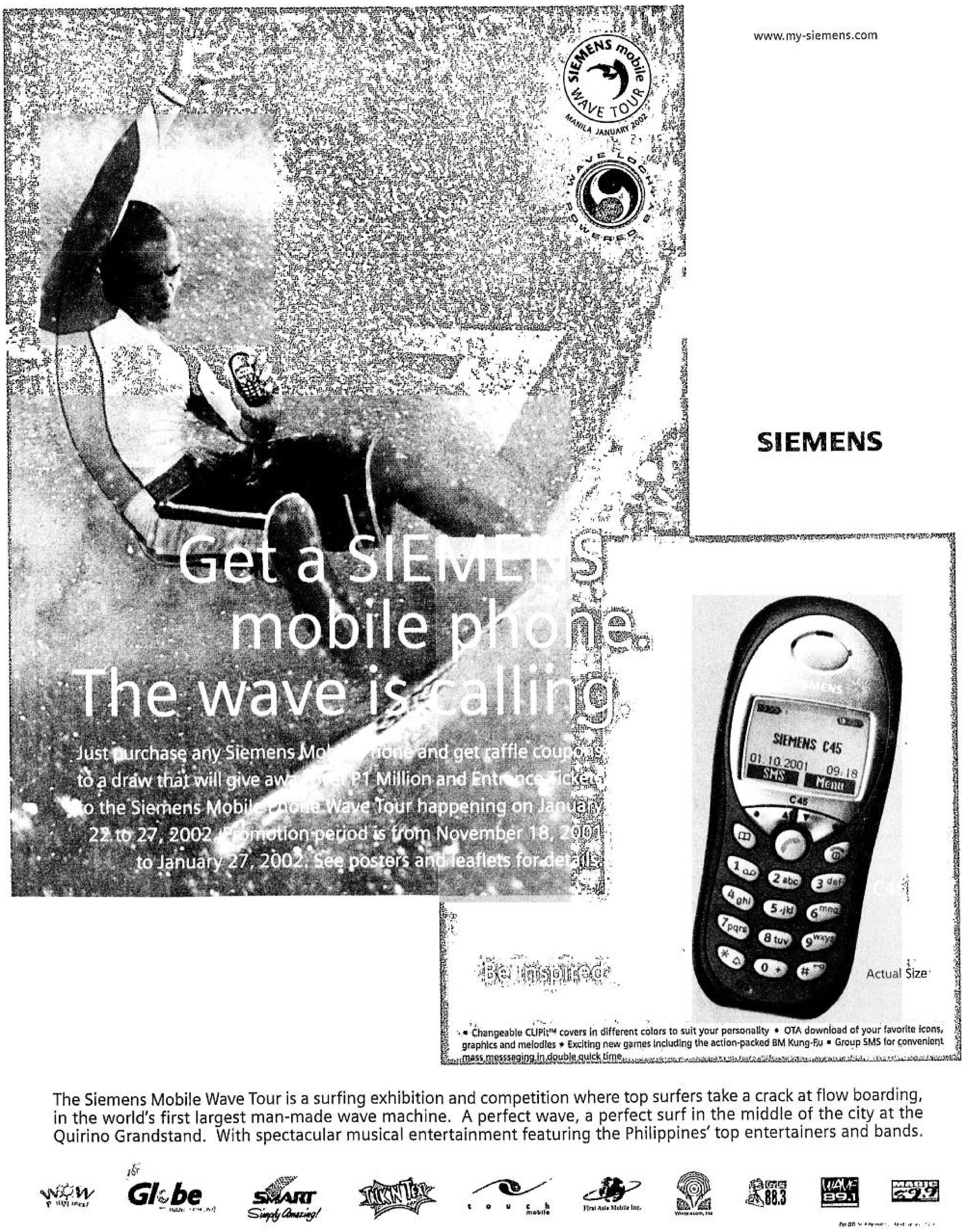
Love wore a Patrice Ramos-Diaz champagne gown with intricate floral embroideries accented by tiny Swarovski crystals. In keeping with the garden motif, her shoes were adorned with leaves and twig-shaped beads. She held a bouquet of calla lilies, hyperricum, pink wax flowers and bear grass.

The female entourage wore iridescent orange and fuchsia shantung gowns with wreaths of orchids as headdresses. An interesting touch

A ROMANTIC/ p.D4



THE BRIDE'S father, Rod Ongpauco, with daughter Soeng



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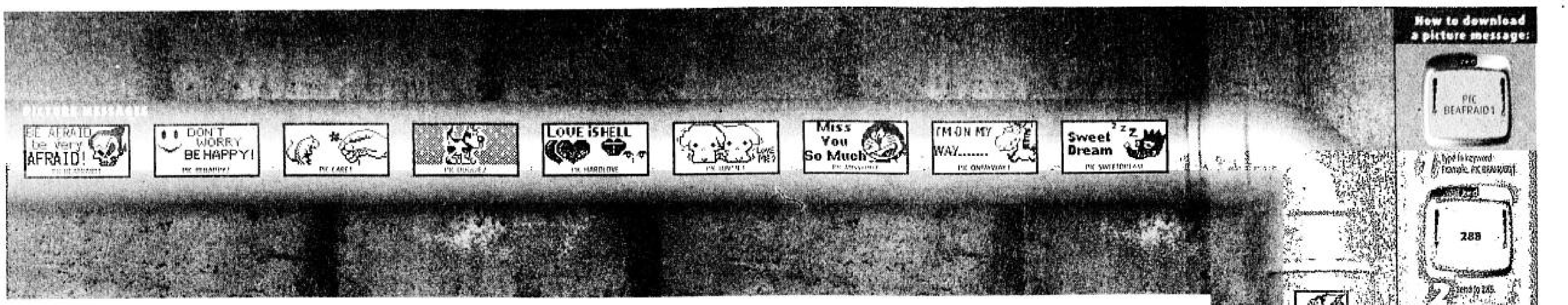
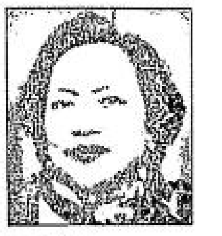


Congregacion holds procession to honor the Child Jesus

DEVOTION to the Sto. Niño started in the Philippines in 1521 when Magellan landed in Cebu and gifted Queen Juana with an image. Since then, the devotion spread throughout the Philippines with each province or town holding its own celebration to worship the Child Jesus.

PURELY PERSONAL



Josephine Darang

For the past 21 years, the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus has been holding exhibits, novena Masses and a grand procession on the last Sunday of January. This time, however, the procession is going to be held on the first Sunday of February, which is Feb. 3, from Philtrade to Luneta.

The 400 exhibitors every year are devoted to the Sto. Niño that they never fail to register. This is in fulfillment of a *panata* or to ask for a favor.

Exhibitors are asked to register at the PNB Financial Center on Jan. 21-23, 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m. The formal opening is set on Jan. 24, 5 p.m. There will be a Holy Mass, cutting of the ceremonial ribbon and blessing of images.

Novena Masses are at 7 p.m. starting Jan. 25. Last day of novena Mass is on Feb. 1, 7 p.m. Anticipated Mass and withdrawal of images is on Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. Viewing of images for nine days from Jan. 25 to Feb. 2 is from 9:30 a.m.-6 p.m.

As a culminating activity, there will be a Mass at the Philtrade grounds on Feb. 3 at 2 p.m. after which the participating *carrozas* will get ready for the procession at 3 p.m.

Donation of Nombre in Prague

Congregacion members traveled to Prague, Czech Republic last Sept. 21 and brought with them a 2-ft image of the Nombre, patron of the organization, which was donated to the shrine of the Infant Jesus of Prague. The shrine is housed in the Church of Our Lady of Victories.

In turn, the Carmelite Fathers gave the replica of the Infant Jesus to the Congregacion. The image is now enthroned at the Chapel of the Sto. Niño at the Violago Compound in Quezon City.

Philippine Ambassador to Prague Carmen Salas received the group composed of Ben Farrales, Nolie Hans, Jing Chua, Rommel Ortin, Donnie Delima, Jesse Nell, Dennis Maturan, Ricky Miranda, German Malabanan, Carmen Chen, Vicky Magadia, Fe de Guia, Nene Divinagracia and Al San Pedro.

'Pit Señor' procession in Cebu

Cebu prepares to celebrate the feast of the Sto. Niño by holding a nine-day novena on Jan. 9-17. The "walk with Jesus" begins Jan. 9 at 4:30 a.m. Assembly time at Fuente Osmeña is at 4 a.m. The foot procession goes toward Jones Avenue to the Basilica del Sto. Niño. Devotees will bring their rosaries, candles and statues of the Sto. Niño.

Novena Masses are every hour from 5 a.m. to 7 p.m. mostly in Cebuano. Jan. 18 will be the "walk with Mary" procession at 4:30 a.m.

On Jan. 18, the pilgrim image will be brought to the St. Joseph Parish in Mandaue by motorcade. After the High Mass on Jan. 19 at 5:30 a.m., the image will be brought to the Ouano wharf in Lapu-Lapu, Pasil, Pier I, where a Mass for OCW families will be held at 7 a.m. A reenactment of the arrival of the image in 1521 and the first baptism of Queen Juana and King Humabon will take place.

Together with the image of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the pilgrim image of the Sto. Niño will be brought in a fluvial procession to the basilica.

For the past four years, my friends and I always make it a point to be in Cebu on the third Saturday of January to attend the solemn procession, which stretches for miles from the basilica to the streets of the city. We leave Manila early, so we can still pray to the Sto. Niño in the basilica before the church is closed in preparation for the procession at 3 p.m.

We go as a thanksgiving for healing received and the solution of problems. We hope to be able to go again on Jan. 19. The *sinulog* dancing takes place on Jan. 20, feast of the Sto. Niño.

Sto. Niño de Molino fiesta

When the Bondoc family developed phases of Bahayang Pag-asa in Molino, Bacoor, Cavite, they dedicated the big church to the Sto. Niño. When I first visited the church, Fr. Vir Mendoza was the parish priest. The parish covers 65,000 parishioners and the pastor today is Fr. Oliver Genuino.

The fiesta falls on Jan. 20 with Bishop Chito Tagle saying the fiesta Mass at 9 a.m.

Sto. Niño de Providencia's 10th year

The Chapel of the Sto. Niño de Providencia at 65 Pijuan St. in BF Resort Village, Las Piñas marks the 10th anniversary of the miracle that happened on Jan. 27, 1992. The image of the Sto. Niño began to sweat oil, which today is collected in tiny bottles and given to the sick for healing.

As early as 7 a.m., priests come to bless the sick and anoint them with the oil. Devotees from provinces come as well to attend the Mass at 3 p.m. at the parish church.

A motorcade at 2:30 p.m. leaves Pijuan Street for the church. Approximately a thousand people fill up the church.

Legazpi diocese has six new priests

Six deacons were ordained priests on Dec. 8 at the St Gregory the Great Cathedral in Legazpi by Bishop Jose Sorra. They were Fr. Paolo Baria Barandon, Fr. Rafael Benosa Jr., Fr. Mariano Briones III, Fr. Juan Buban, Fr. Fredolin Britanico Cid and Fr. John Binamira Mendoza.

Sta. Rita de Cascia to Sorsogon

The beautiful image of Sta. Rita de Cascia will finally be brought to Sorsogon via Legazpi through PAL on Jan. 9. The image was donated by readers to the Augustinian of Sta. Rita de Cascia Monastery in Gubat, Sorsogon. Those who wish to help pay for the ticket can beep me at 141-020543.

Healing Mass of Blessed Padre Pio

The Spirit of Love Catholic Community will hold a healing Mass at the Manila Seedling Bank Compound on Edsa corner Quezon Avenue tomorrow, Monday, at 7 p.m. The relic glove of Blessed Padre Pio will be venerated.

I remember walking up the street going to the Scala Sancta in Rome last Oct. 23 with other pilgrims when I saw a small store with an image of Blessed Padre Pio. I immediately went in and also saw a framed 5x7 photograph.

It was as if the holy priest led me to buy the photo. I put it in my hand-carry and it is now on my altar. If you have health problems, pray to Padre Pio and try to go to the healing Mass on Jan. 7.

Medjugorje message

Our Lady of Medjugorje gave this message through the visionary Jakov Colo on Dec. 25 at 3:30 p.m. The apparition lasted five minutes. Our Lady said:

"Dear children, today when Jesus is born anew for you, in a special way. I want to call you, to conversion. Pray, pray, pray for the conversion of your heart, so that Jesus may be born in you and all and may dwell in you and come to reign over your entire being. Thank you for having responded to the call."

Arpex Travel is now preparing another trip to Medjugorje. Departure is April 1. Those interested can call Alice Padlan at 525-3883/3902.

If you are having problems, take to heart Fr. Ollie Genuino's advice: "*Kumapit sa palda ni* Mama Mary." Everything will be fine. Happy Three Kings to all of you!

STO. Niño de Cebu

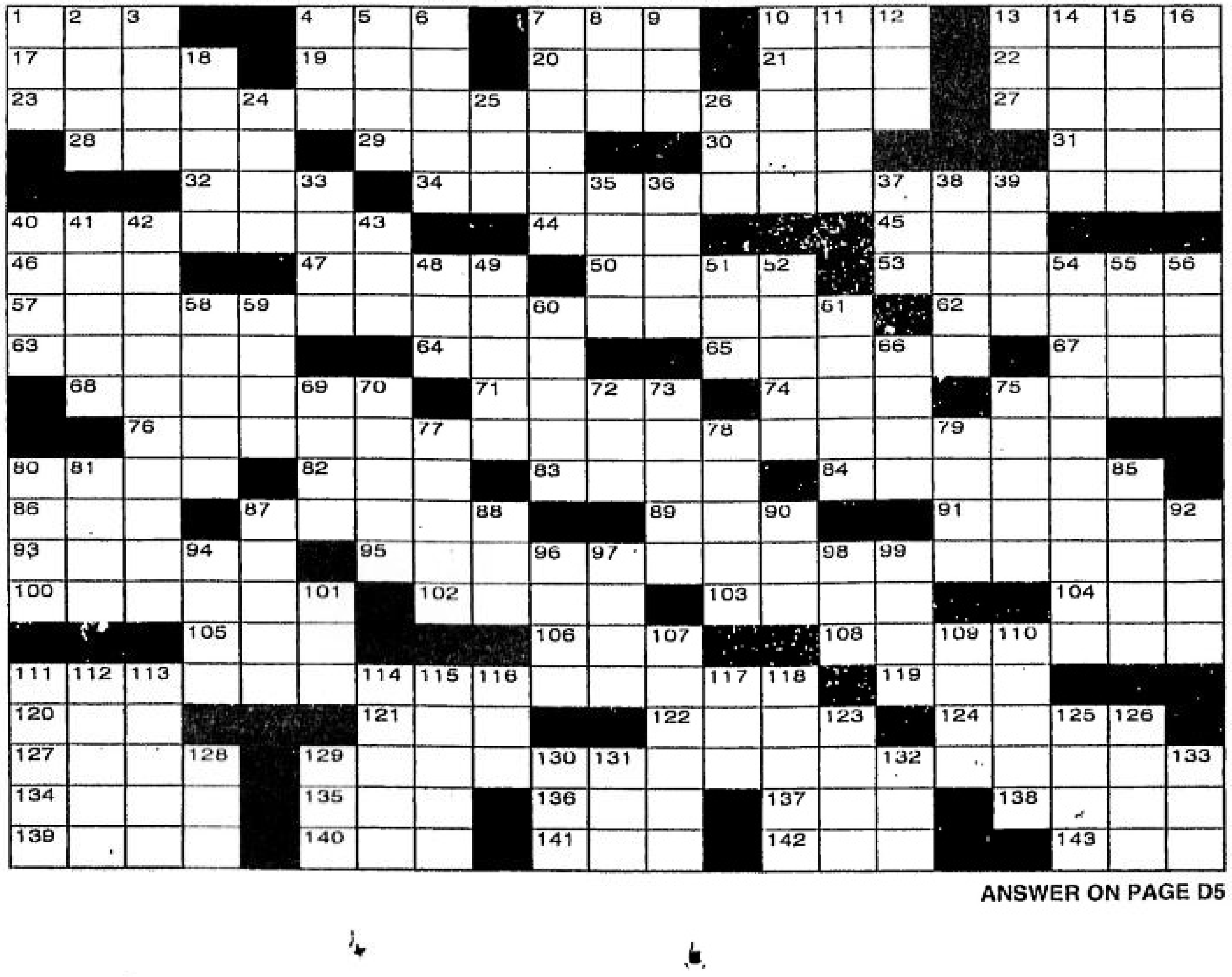
AMBASSADOR Carmen Salas (standing, fourth from left) with the Bishops of Prague and the members of the Congregacion del Santissimo Nombre del Niño Jesus during the donation of the "Nombre."

SUNDAY CROSSWORD

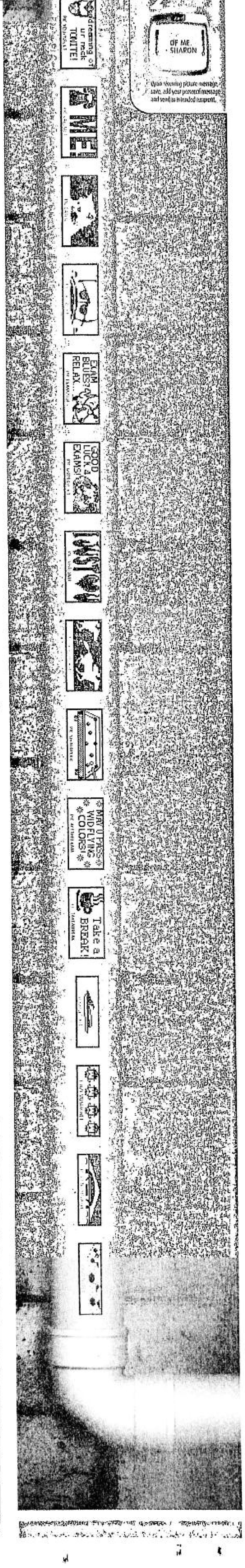
PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Donna J. Stone

ACROSS
1 Craven or Unseld
4 Thurman of "Pulp Fiction"
7 Droop
10 Beatnik's abode
13 Reader's need
17 Part of 136 Across
19 — room
20 McKinley or Lupino
21 Actor Vigoda
22 Bread spread
23 "Basic Instinct" actress married to comic?
27 Drill accessories
28 Utah city
29 Goddess of youth
30 605, to Cicero
31 Carpenter —
32 USNA grad
34 "Buttons and Bows" singer married to Celtics player?
40 Learned
44 — -mo
45 Barley beverage
46 Deighton or Dawson
47 Charity
50 Heidi's hangout
53 Nonconformist
57 "Five Easy Pieces" actress married to sports columnist?
62 Quantity
63 Actress Verdugo
64 Stocking shade
65 Investigate
67 Caviar
68 Plaid fabric
71 Pilfers
74 Reverence
75 Teller's partner
76 Early sitcom actress married to golfer?
80 Paper —
82 Buck's beloved
83 Mets' milieu
84 — quo
86 Taylor or Torres
87 Sierra —
89 Marmaduke has two
91 Slowly, to Solti
93 Madrid month
95 "Tennessee Waltz" singer married to cable mogul?
100 Doc
102 Start the laundry
103 Galaxy glitterer
104 Nosh
105 Cornfield cry
106 Kind
108 Best wishes
111 "It's Too Late" singer married to TV producer?
119 — Na Na
120 "I — Rock" ('66 song)
121 Hubbub
122 Refusals
124 "Dies —"
127 Pianist Lupu
129 "Cheers" actress married to pop artist?
134 "— Is My Song" ('67 hit)
135 Chicken — king
136 Private pension
137 Sundial numeral
138 Place for pews
139 Shampoo additive
140 Mil. rank
141 Delivery truck
142 Hosp. employee
143 "See ya!"

DOWN
1 Used to be
2 Return address?
3 Trauma aftermath
4 Poetic pot
5 Engage, as gears
6 Played a part
7 Bedding
8 Lyric poem
9 Shriver or Dawber
10 Religious holiday
11 From the beginning
12 Lion's lair
13 Sampras stroke
14 Excuse
15 Gas gauge
16 Prepared to be shot
18 Cornered the cat
24 Bus starter?
25 Sapporo sash
26 Pitches
33 Attempt
35 Fairbanks' st.
36 Actress Celeste
37 Sheepish fellow?.
38 Beethoven's "Fur —"
39 TV's "Father Knows —"
40 Actress Sommer
41 Kingdom
42 Never attained
43 Building wing
48 Welcome item?
49 Fright
51 Orange seed
52 Handbag part
54 Precursor
55 Rock's — Maiden
56 "— Wolf" ('85 film)
58 Land
59 Drug buster
60 Handles
61 Salutes the moon?
66 Defeat
69 General's helper
70 "— John B" ('66 song)
72 Crank's comment
73 Insomnia cure?
75 Flying Pan?
77 Horne and Olin
78 Actor Fernando
79 Asian river
80 Mr. Kadiddlehopper
81 Reinforce a raincoat
85 Place
87 Regional
88 Ike's domain
90 NCO
92 Fido's dinner, perhaps
94 Puerto —
96 Math subject
97 "— never work!"
98 Teacup part
99 "— bien!"
101 Be in debt
107 Nairobi native
109 Alphabet quartet
110 Producer Spelling
111 Magna —
112 Menotti title character
113 Chatter box?
114 Painter Frida
115 Perfect
116 Cambodia's Lon —
117 Internet acronym
118 Maintain an engine
123 Cut a cuticle
125 Jezebel's husband
126 Begrudge
128 Employ
129 Cul-de- —
130 Ullmann or Tyler
131 Geologic division
132 — rickey
133 Diocese



ANSWER ON PAGE D5



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Take a BREAK!

40 fabulous gowns featured in bridal mag

FORTY bridal gowns by Filipino designers are featured in the latest issue of Weddings magazine now out in leading bookstores, newsstands and bridal stores.

Ranging from the trendy strapless ensembles to the nostalgic Filipiniana look, the bridal gowns showcase Filipino ingenuity at its best.

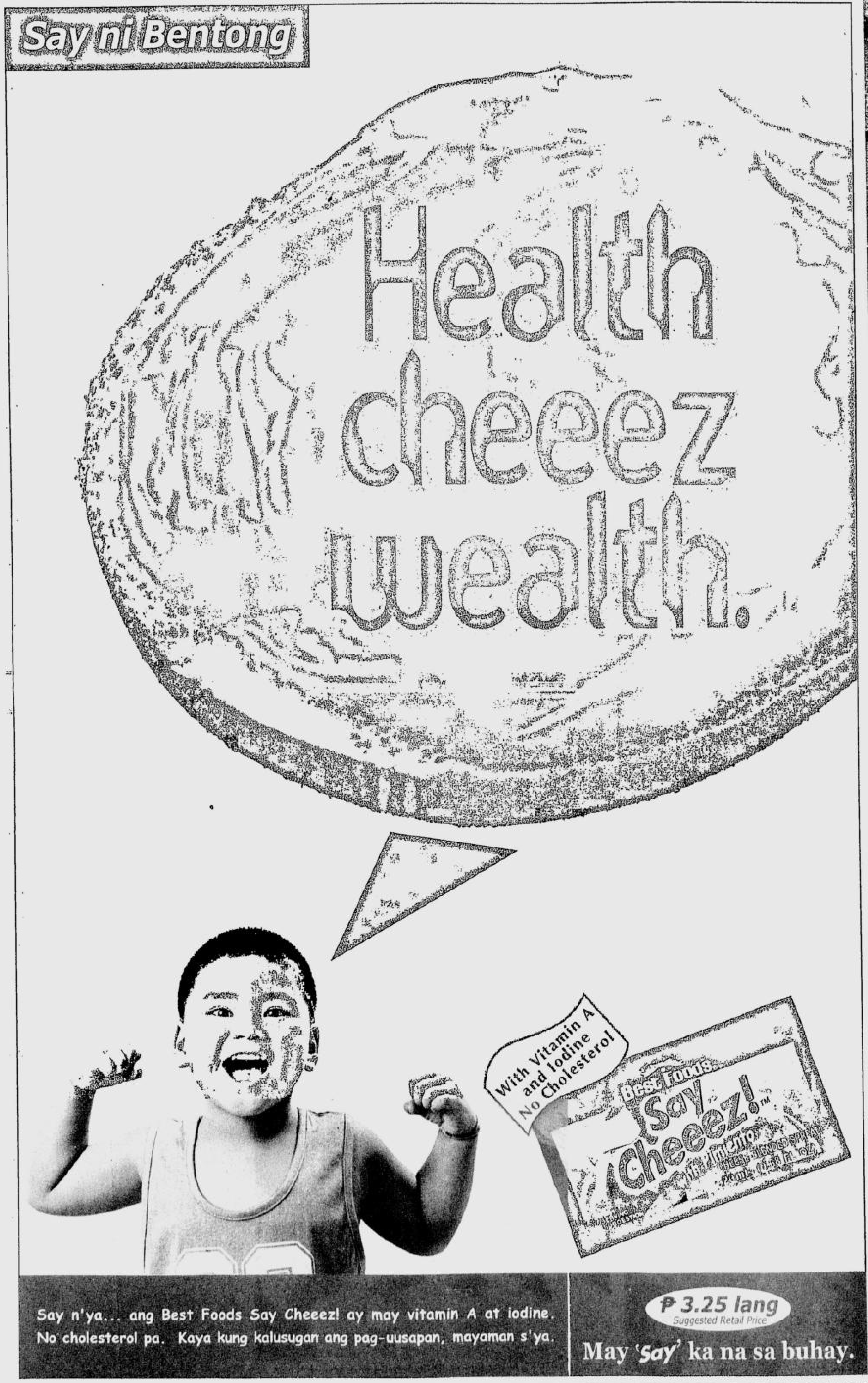
With Miriam Quiambao on the cover, this issue also features "Simbahan," a rundown of the requirements by some of Metro Manila's most popular churches for weddings, and "Reliable sources," a guide to where to source inexpensive lace, clothing materials, flowers, shoes and even bridal gowns.

"Broadcast brides" features newscasters Vicky Morales-Reyno and Karen Davila-Sta. Ana reminiscing their love stories and their own walk down the aisle. Actress and thespian Lara Fabregas-Bagatsing writes down the lessons she learned in preparing a wedding.

"Groom guide" offers the participative groom tips on the details of dressing—from boutonnieres to cummerbunds to tuxedos and pants, written by designer Barge Ramos.

There are also tips on applying feng shui on your wedding date, a Q&A column on the most common concerns of the bride and an article (and a listing) of these foods for love called aphrodisiacs that make for a hot and exciting wedding night.

Weddings is published by Marathon Publishing Co.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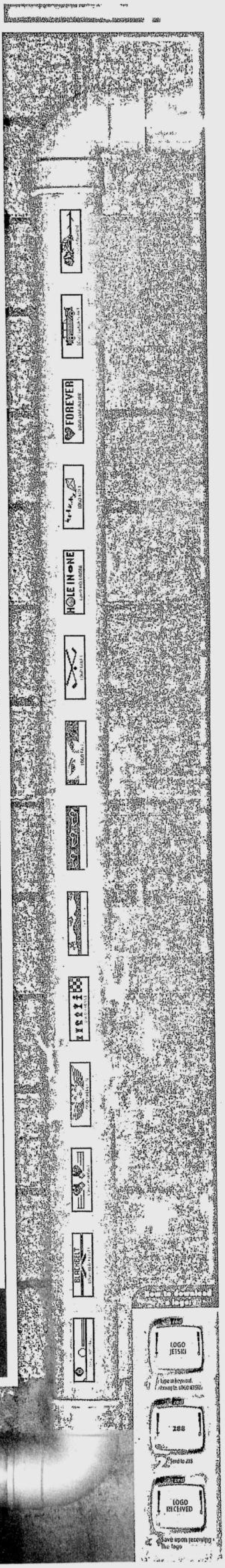
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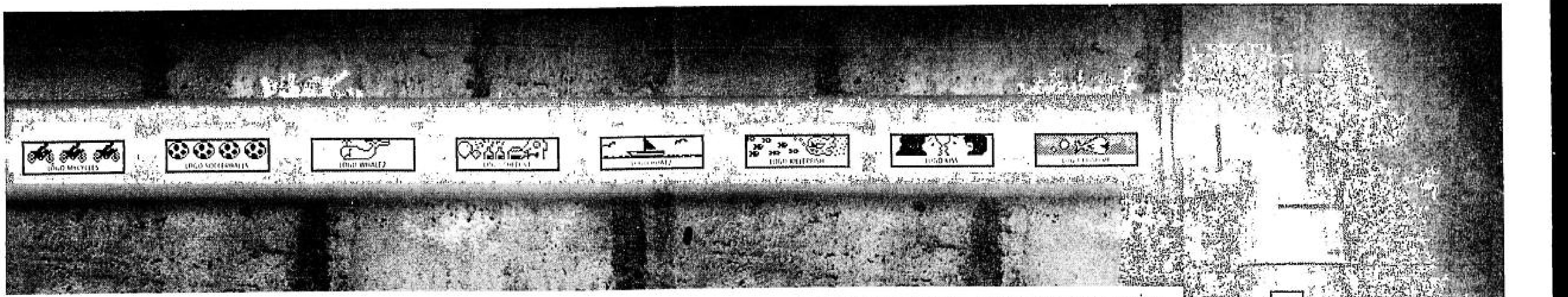
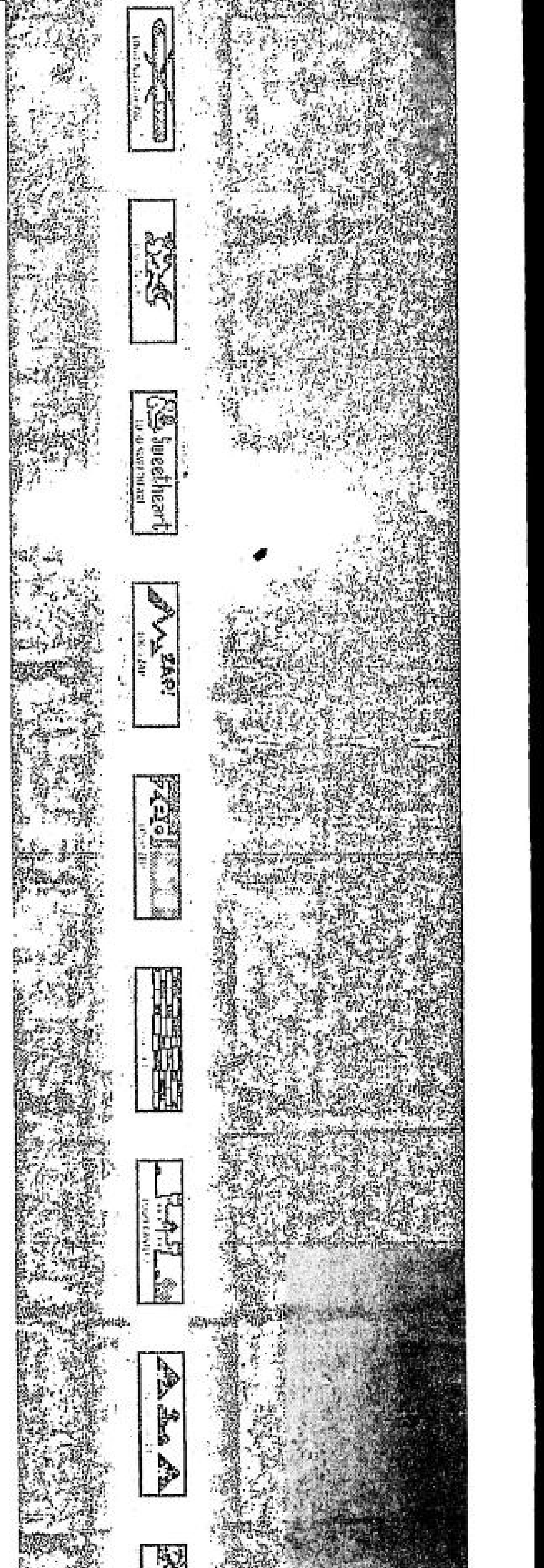
LOGO AMP1
LOGO BALANCE1





A romantic garden wedding for a bride named Love

(From page D1)

were the butterfly wings worn by the bride's two sisters, Happy (matron of honor) and Soeng (maid of honor), best friend Geraldine Rojales (bridesmaid) and flower girls Gabriella Gibbs and Kassandra McKinnis.

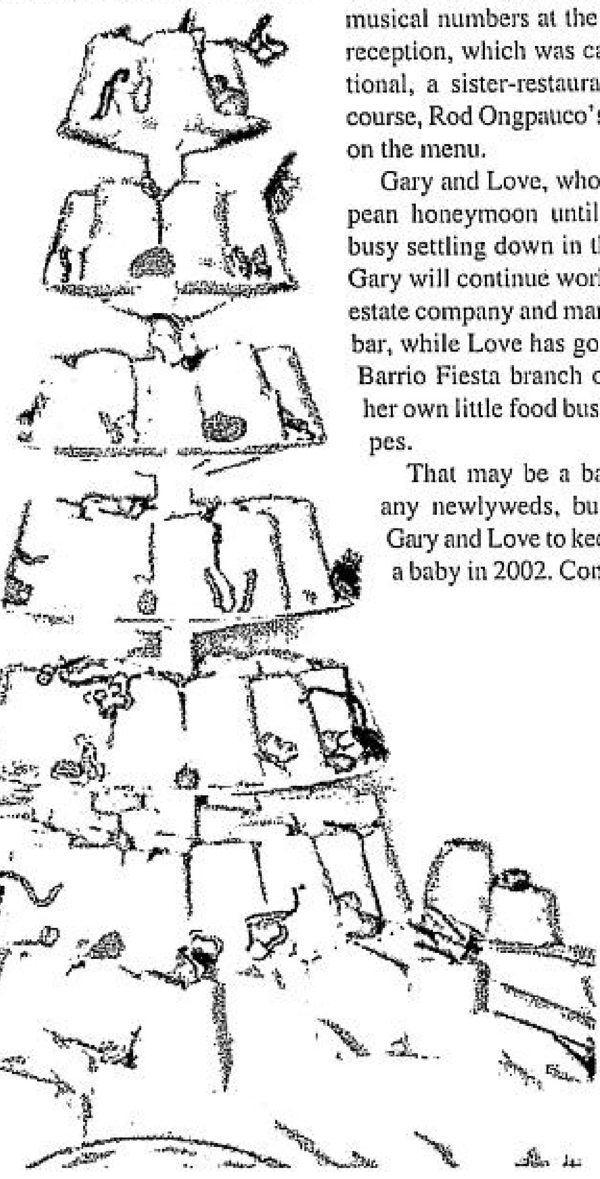
Also in the wedding entourage were the groom's younger brother Gilbert Jr. as best man; Bo Garcia, Rico Tecson, James Santos and Carlo Velasco, groomsmen; and Isabel Basa, Mae Tan and Rissa Villanueva, bridesmaids.

Secondary sponsors were Charlie Velasco and AJ Puyat (candle), Kennedy Tan and Rubylynne Wambangco (veil), and Dante Tanjuakio and Cila Chua (cord). The other little attendants were Brian Alexis Ongpauco (Bible bearer), Jerome Samson (coin bearer) and—surprise, surprise—the bride's pet dog, Pugsy, who was the ring bearer.

Lilian Legaspi of Flowers of May used various tropical vandas, anthuriums and bromeliads to complement the already flower-filled setting. She threw in a few dozen live butterflies that fluttered around as the officiating pastor pronounced Gary .and Love man and wife. The bride's sister, Soeng, Janno Gibbs and Melissa Gibbs-Pabalan, tenor Robert Natividad and, of course, the Singing Cooks and Waiters performed musical numbers at the wedding ceremony and reception, which was catered by Fiesta International, a sister-restaurant of Barrio Fiesta. Of course, Rod Ongpauco's famous *crispy pata* was on the menu.

Gary and Love, who have put off their European honeymoon until after the holidays, are busy settling down in their home in Pasig City. Gary will continue working for his family's real estate company and managing his own computer bar, while Love has gone back to managing the Barrio Fiesta branch on Marcos Highway and her own little food business called Love's Recipes.

That may be a backbreaking regimen for any newlyweds, but not hectic enough for Gary and Love to keep them from planning for a baby in 2002. Congratulations!



FIVE-TIERED cake by Maita Gregorio of Cake Concepts

SISTERS Happy Ongpauco-Rivera and Soeng Ongpauco with flower girls Gabriella Gibbs and Kassandra McKinnis

BEST man Gilbert Fallorina Jr.

THE GROOM with his parents, Gilbert Sr. and Elena Fallorina

CORA Tamayo, bride's mom Liberty Ilagan and Maria Fe Gibbs. Behind are *ninongs* Dolphy and Rudy Bernabe

SUSAN Roces, Gina de Venecia and Ampy Tandiama

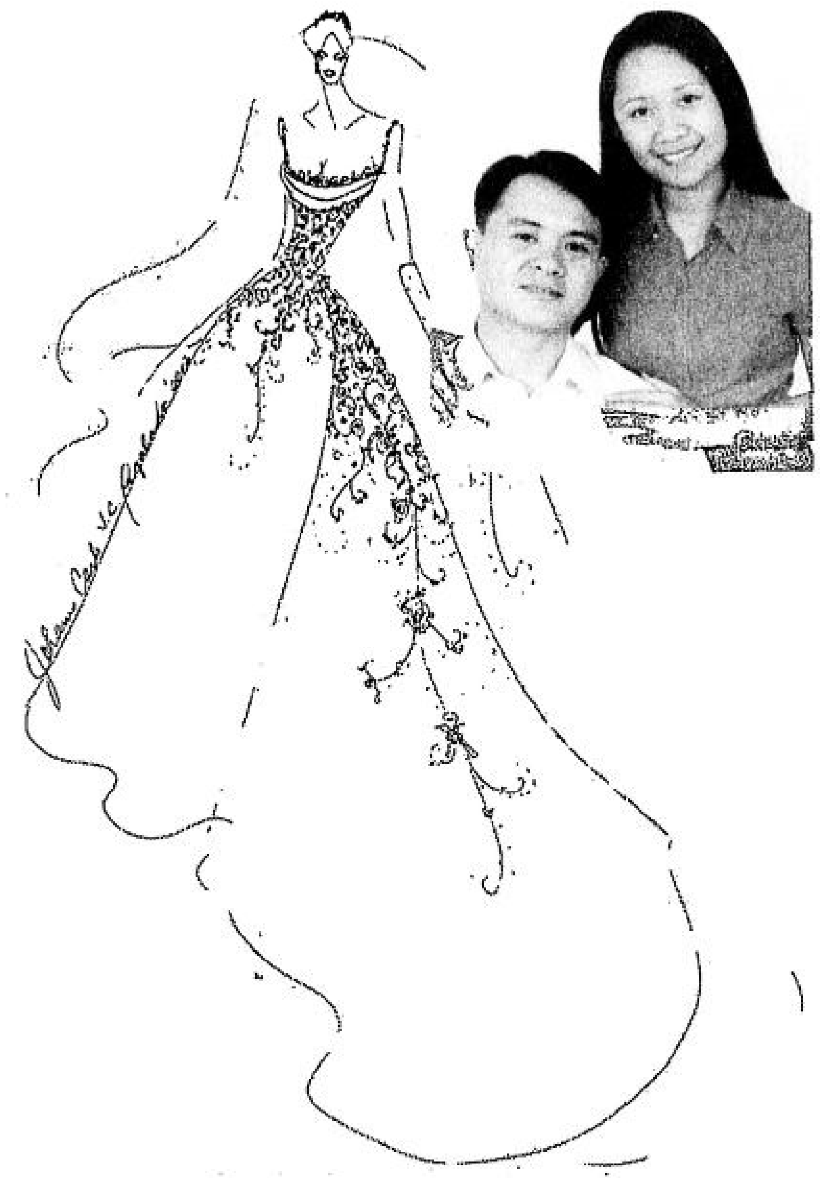
GARY and Love Ongpauco say "I do" amid lush greenery.

DONNIE Ramirez, Myrna Borromeo, Barbara Perez, Lyn de Vera and Jeannie McElroy

SECONDARY sponsors AJ Puyat, Charlie Velasco, Rubylynne Wambangco, Kennedy Tan, Cila Reyes, Dante Tanjuakio, James Santos and Isabel Basa

Milestones

We're accepting announcements of weddings, engagements and debuts. Please send the following typewritten information: names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, gown designer and other related information. Readers can send sketches of gowns and pictures of the couple at least one month before the wedding. This will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the sender.



BASA-DE LOS REYES

Roy John Chua Basa Jr., son of **Roy Sr.** and **Anita Basa** of Calapan City, Oriental Mindoro, will wed **Mary Loise David de los Reyes**, daughter of engineer **Rodnel** and **Gloria de los Reyes** of Sagay City, Negros Occidental, on Jan. 8 at the Shrine of Jesus, the Way, the Truth and the Life, Pasay City. Reception will follow at the Grand Ballroom of The Heritage Hotel.

The bride will wear a **Johann Carlo Regalado** off-white *hablon* princess-cut gown with a 3-meter train traced with rhinestones, pearls and glass beads. The 10-yard veil is made of pure silk tulle. Her entourage will don ensembles in an olive green motif.

Both graduates of the UP College of Law, the groom is an associate at the Villaraza and Angangco Law Offices, while the bride is an associate at Zambrano and Associates Law Offices.

OPPUS-MONTON

Rolando C. Oppus Jr., son of **Rolando Sr.** and **Delia Oppus**, will wed **Hazel Maris K. Monton**, daughter of **Teodoro** and **Facunda Monton**, on Jan. 19 at St. Joseph Cathedral, Tagbilaran City, Bohol. Reception will follow at Bohol Tropics Resort. **Sim Dangoy** created the bridal gown.

LAGUNZAD-RAMOS

Anthony Jean Lagunzad will wed **Maria Joan Ramos** on Jan. 11 at the Manila Cathedral.

VECINA-ROMERO

Rafael Vecina, son of veteran photojournalist **Ramon Vecina**, tied the knot with **Irene Romero** last December at the St. Peter and Paul Parish Church, Makati City.

DORONILA-PINEDA

Harry C. Doronila and **Irene E. Pineda** tied the knot on Dec. 15 at the St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susanna Parish Church, Alabang.

DAVID-REYES

Pinkee Reyes, daughter of the late **Bernabe** and **Constancia Reyes**, will exchange "I dos" with **Edward C. David**, son of Mr. and Ms **Philip David**, on Jan. 11 at the Christ the King Church, Libis, QC. Reception will follow at Christ the King Parish Hall.

MANALILI-MONDOÑEDO

Mel M. Manalili and **Rhoda T. Mondoñedo** will wed on Jan. 19 at Our Lady of Peace Shrine, Edsa, Pasig City.

VILLAVICENCIO-MENDOZA

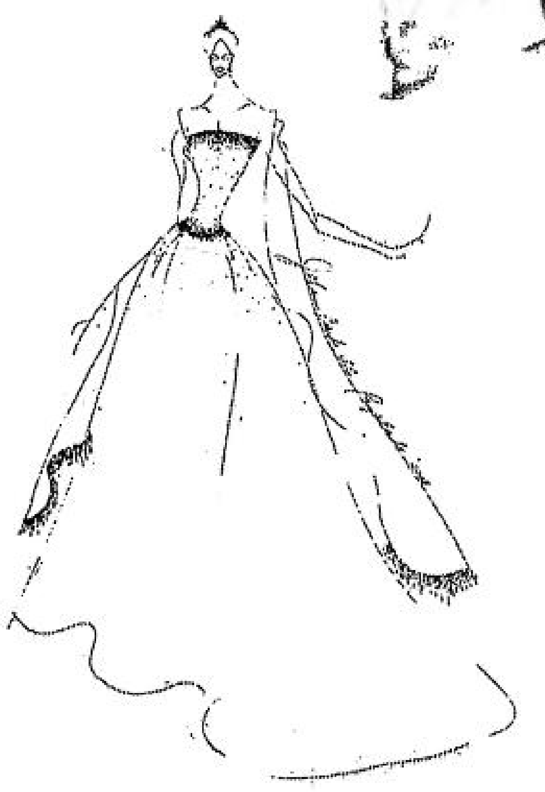
Eric Capunitan Villavicencio, son of **Mario** and **Gertrudes Villavicencio**, will wed **Cynthia Tadena Mendoza**, daughter of **Gaudencio** and **Clarita Mendoza**, on Jan. 19, at the St. Clement Parish Church, Angono, Rizal. Reception will be held at Kainan sa Kabukiran, Taytay.

VALTERAS-REYES

Joven Valteras and **Ma. Sheila P. Reyes** will exchange marriage vows on Jan. 18 at the San Sebastian Church, Quiapo, Manila.

DIONISIO DEBUT

Anna Mae Dionisio, daughter of **Richard** and **Erlinda Dionisio**, celebrated her 18th birthday Dec. 1, at the Manansala AB of the Manila Galleria Suites. A student at the University of Asia and the Pacific, she wore a dainty asymmetric gown by **Leonard Co**.



ARANAS DEBUT

Villa Venetia B. Aranas, daughter of **Anthony** and **Villa Aranas** of Quezon City, will celebrate her 18th birthday tonight, Jan. 6, with a dinner-dance at the Great Eastern Hotel, Aberdeen Court, QC. She will be escorted by **John Paolo Giorgetti**.

Johann Carlo Regalado created for the debutante a pink strapless corset gown made of iridescent shantung with Swarovski crystals, rhinestones, glass beads and pearls.

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD

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Smooth	*Santana*	**TONE SMOOTHSAN**
Waiting For Tonight	*Jennifer Lopez*	**TONE WAITING4**
Twilight Zone		**TONE TWILIGHT**
Great Balls Of Fire	*Amber*	**TONE GREATBALLS**
Getting To Know You	*Sound of Music*	**TONE GETNG2KNW**
Rhapsody In Blue	*George Gershwin*	**TONE RHAPSODY**
What A Wonderful World	*Louise Armstrong*	**TONE WONDERFUL**
In A Gadda Da Vida	*Iron Butterfly*	**TONE INAGADDA**
Be With You	*Ricky Martin*	**TONE BWITHYOU**
So Young	*The Corrs*	**TONE SOYOUNG**
What Can I Do	*The Corrs*	**TONE WHATCANIDO**
Jessie's Girl	*Rick Springfield*	**TONE JESSIES**
Where You Lead	*Carole King*	**TONE WERULEAD**
I'm a Believer	*Smash Mouth*	**TONE IMABELIEVR**
Superman	*Five For Fighting*	**TONE SUPERMANS**
Modem	*zed*	**TONE MODEM**
Volare	*Gypsy Kings*	**TONE VOLARE**
Bahay Kubo		**TONE BAHAYKUBO**
Bouncing Ball	*Different Sounds*	**TONE BOUNCE**
More Bubbles	*Different Sounds*	**TONE BUBBLES**
Fax Tone	*Different Sounds*	**TONE FAX**
Mobile Interference	*Different Sounds*	**TONE GSM**
Hmmm	*Different Sounds*	**TONE HMM**
Strawberry Fields Forever	*Beatles*	**TONE STRAWBERRY**
We Can Work It Out	*Beatles*	**TONE WECANWORK**
Help	*Beatles*	**TONE HELPBTLS**
Girl	*Beatles*	**TONE GIRL**
And I Love Her	*Beatles*	**TONE ANDILOVE**

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Hong Kong lights up a first-timer's life

By Jason Doplito
Contributor

A 24-hour McDonald's. Shops open as early as 9 a.m. Cold breezes at 3 p.m. Body Shop, Giordano and Esprit stores closing at 10 p.m. Night markets with a dizzying array of bargain goods and streets safe even at 3 a.m.

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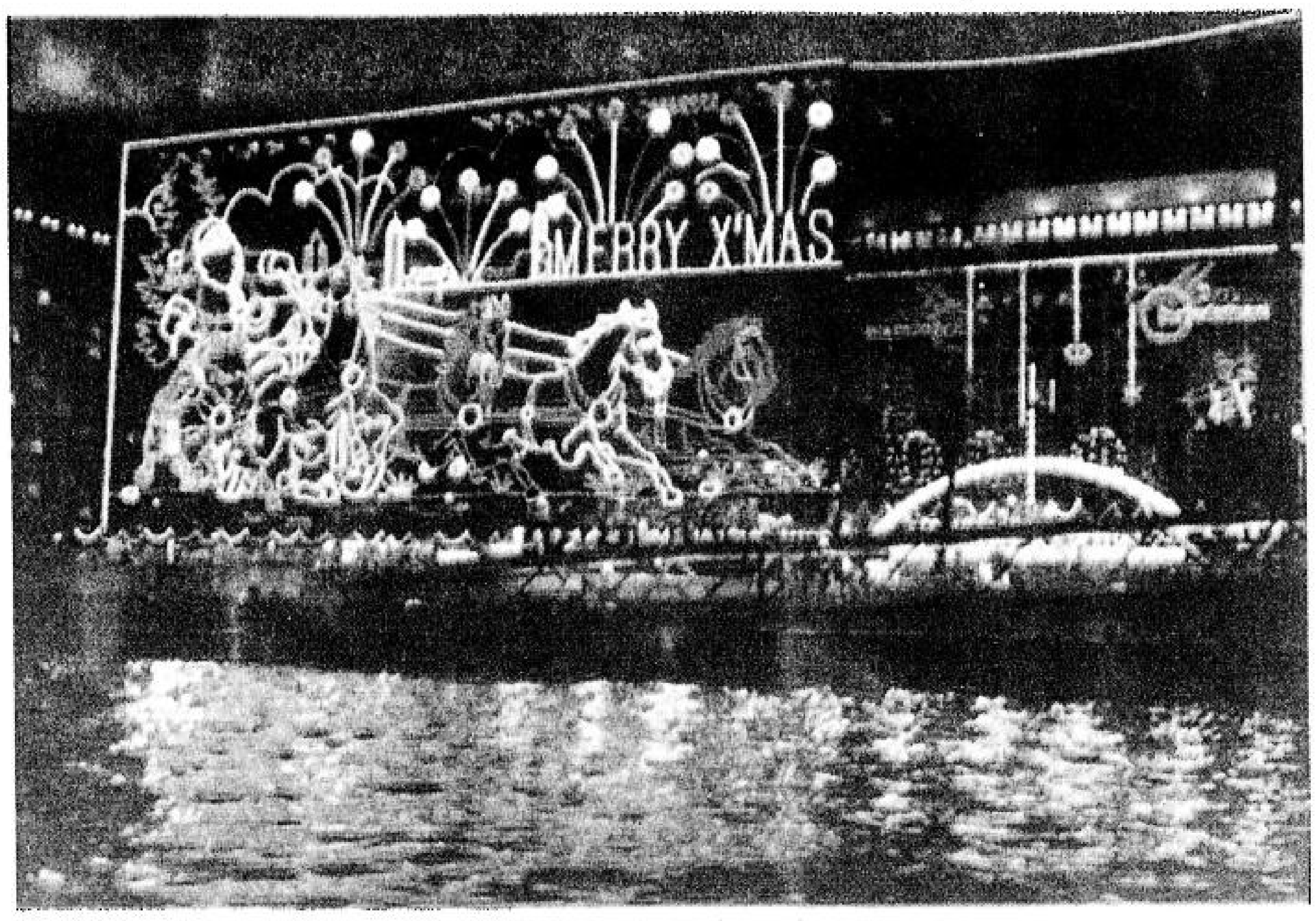

LIGHTS UP! The record-setting display at the Tsim Sha Tsui waterfront

To fully enjoy the light display, visitors can go on a ferry, tram or open-top bus tour then simply sit back and relax, enjoying at the same time the attractions of the city's different districts. We tried the Galaxy of Lights Tram Tour (HK$50 or P330). The tram, the oldest mode of transportation in Hong Kong, slowly made its way through Causeway Bay, Wanchai and Central, before ending up at Western District. One of my most beautiful memories of Hong Kong, the tour gave me charming scenes of busy streets from the upper level of the double-decker tram. Overhead loomed the city's imposing skyscrapers.

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The city in a day

For people who enjoy a romantic cruise, there are ferries and Chinese junk (boat) for taking in the striking night scenes along both sides of the Victoria Harbour. The Harbour Night Cruise, for example (HK$280 or P1,848), is a one-and-a-half hour trip that makes the round from Western District to Island East. An English-speaking tour guide gives you a little bit of history as you sightsee. Staying on the roofless upper deck of the junk with a strong, freezing wind and the rocking of the boat can be a bit of a challenge to your hairdo, but if you want to take good pictures this is where you should be.

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A much cheaper alterna- tive to this cruise would be the Star Ferry (HK$2.20 or P14.50), a public transport that regularly conveys passengers between the Central district on Hong Kong island and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon. The eight-minute crossing also offers a scenic view. When you get off the ferry on Tsim Sha Tsui, you can catch the Kowloon Circle Hop on, Hop off Sightseeing Bus.

I was impressed with the concept of this bus because it was the perfect way for first-time visitors to experience Hong Kong. As the name suggests, it allows you to hop on and off at strategic stops that would interest tourists. With an unlimited day ride pass (HK$30 or P198), one can hop off and shop at Park Lane Boulevard, Temple Street and Ladies' Market ("*ito na yung pinaka*-Greenhills *sa kanila*," I heard one shopper say), stroll at the Kowloon Walled City Park, or enjoy the sights at the Waterfront Promenade, then get back on the bus to visit eight other tourist destinations. A single-ride ticket costs HK$9.4 (P62) so it's much wiser to tour Kowloon all in one day, if that would be enough.

Another event that will be going on until February, aside from the Lights Up, is the "Rhythm of Light-Aqua Fantasia" musical fountain show, the largest Hong Kong has ever seen. Staged at the Centenary Garden in Tsim Sha Tsui East, the awesome display was the center of attraction during the official launch of the CLP Lights Up Hong Kong.

Inspired by Hong Kong's official flower, the bauhinia, the show features a fountain rising up to 20 meters in the air while a water jet at the center shoots up water even higher. Music and lights make the display even more colorful while a welcome message is shown across a wall of water. At one point, a fire flares up in front and you begin to wonder if ice rocks will eventually fall from the heavens as part of the show. As the impressive seven-minute show is free, no one should pass it up.

The City of Life's various events do not only take in place in the bustling city. The outlying islands and the New Territories show a different side of Hong Kong which will delight those who love the outdoors and want to learn more about the culture of this Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Go green

A 30-minute boat ride from Hong Kong island brings you to Lamma, known for its hiking trails and seafood restaurants. The island has trails suitable for both amateur and serious hikers. Some even cut across small villages so hikers get to see locals going about their daily routine.

On Lamma, I tasted the local version of *taho* or sweet bean curd, which you can have warm or cold. Although their *taho* is better tasting, I still prefer the sweetness of the Filipino concoction. Although I'm not that much into food, I couldn't resist what was laid out for us by Rainbow Restaurant, the Best of Culinary Award winner. I practically wolfed down everything offered us. Think roast duck, deep-fried garlic shrimp, large crabs in spicy sauce, steamed fish, among others.

The New Territories, on the other hand, is a rich tapestry of different province ffering other nature-related tours. We visite e village of Lam Tsuen, a 200-year-old settle not far from Tai Po. The village has two mai ions: the Tin Hau Tem the Hui Yuen or Wi Trees. During the ng Time Festival i Kong, hundreds o lock to the temple and pray before paying homage to the trees and making a wish. A 50-year-old legend tells the story of a boat dweller who has been sick for a long time. He got well after praying in front of a tree. News of the "miracle" spread quickly and people started believing that the tree cou make wishes come true. A eature on a television program made it famous and a tourist attraction.

CHRISTMAS-TREE lookalike is actually the "miraculous" wishing tree.

To make a wish, like if you want to be the strongest in "The Weakest Link," simply buy a Ng Bo Dip (about HK$1 or less than P7), a mascot made of paper. Write down your wish, wrap it up and tie with a string attached to an orange (supplied) and then flip it up the tree. Those landing on higher branches are believed to be more likely to come true. This is where the fun starts. Hopefuls try different ways of tossing their wishes so they would land on the highest branch. I saw one who made several wild, circular swings of his arms before throwing his wish up the tree. It didn't get on any branch.

Even if your wish does not come true, there are so many other reasons to make a stay in Hong Kong truly enjoyable. With a metropolis awake 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as befitting the City of Life, you do not need statistics to realize that Hong Kong is worth a visit any time.

SHOPPERS enjoy the Hong Kong nightlife.

A chilly welcome to 2002

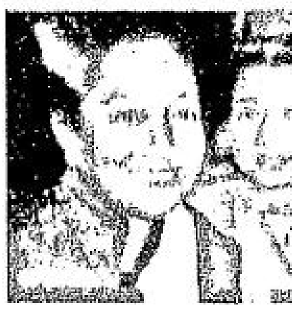
TEESAW
Raul Teehankee

WE hied off to the summer capital of the Philippines, Baguio City, and stayed at the exclusive Baguio Country Club as guests of businessman friend **Ramon Monzon**. The weather was perfect at a chilly 12 degrees Celsius.

Accommodations were spic-and-span and the club facilities first-class. The tennis court's artificial grass was ideal for a reintroductory course, the swimming pool heated to a comfortable temperature and the Japanese food at the Hamada outlet was comparable to that of any known restaurant in Manila.

On a lazy afternoon, we took the tourist route to the strawberry fields of La Trinidad Valley, gobbling up freshly picked fruits on the way back. We also visited **Bencab's Tam-Awan (Ifugao) Village**.

We went horseback riding in the morning. It was such a peaceful and perfect way to greet a new year, 2002, in a city where you can still smell the pine trees.



RADIO commentator Cielo del Mundo with Peachy Veneracion

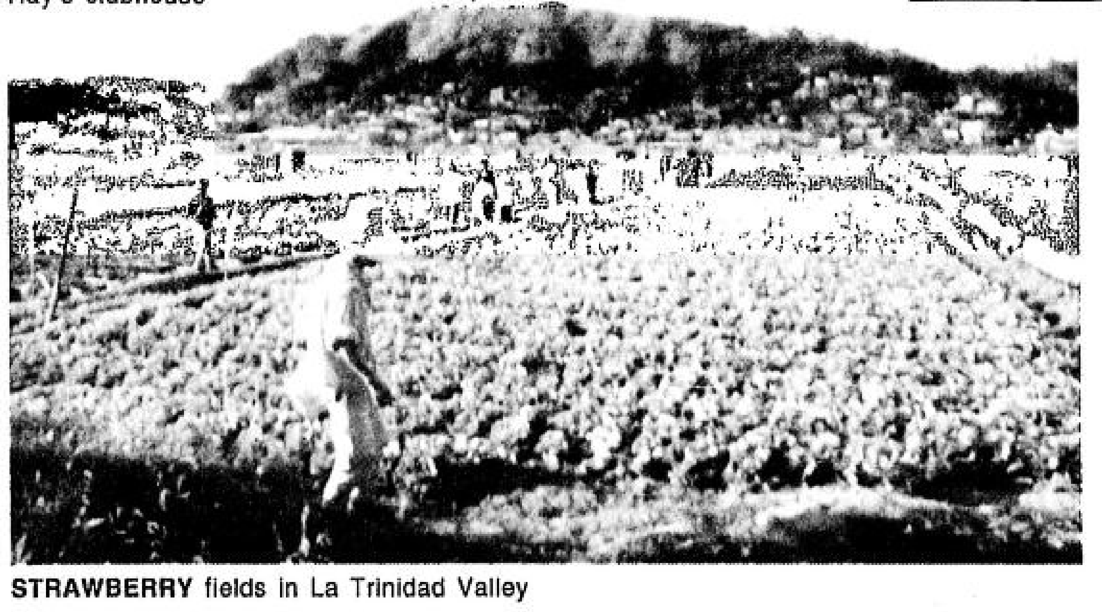
MY agronomist brother Monching, who grows potatoes in Baguio, is seen here with Amy.

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon and wife, Montserrat, just celebrated 40 years of wedded bliss

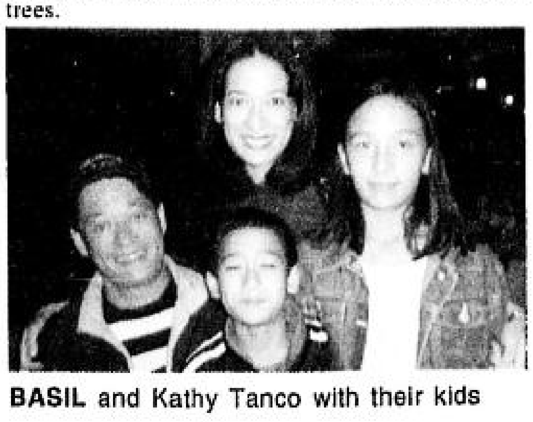
GABBY Zosa

GOLDEN Ocampo at Camp John Hay's clubhouse

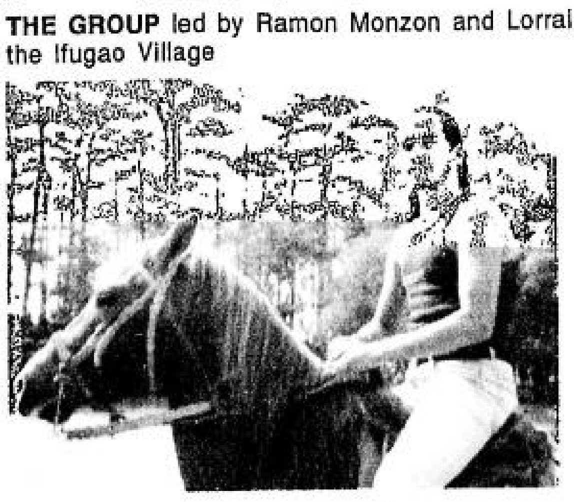
THE GROUP led by Ramon Monzon and Lorraine Schuck toured the Ifugao Village



STRAWBERRY fields in La Trinidad Valley



BASIL and Kathy Tanco with their kids



AT WRIGHT Park, my horse called Starblazer ridden by owner named Scott. 2002 is the Chinese Year of the Horse.

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By Jason Doplito
Contributor

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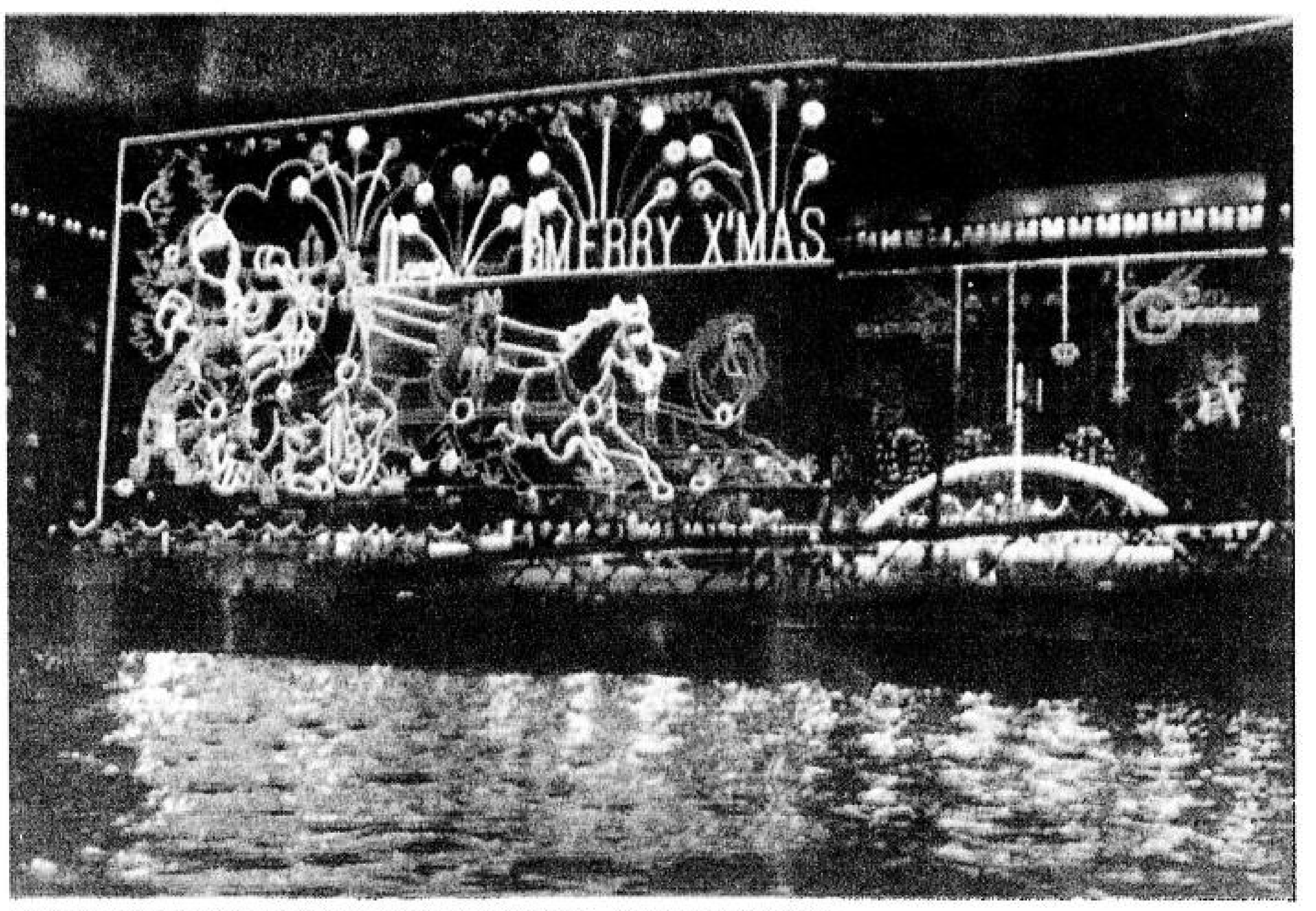

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A much cheaper alternative to this cruise would be the Star Ferry (HK$2.20 or P14.50), a public transport that regularly conveys passengers between the Central district on Hong Kong island and Tsim Sha Tsui in Kowloon. The eight-minute crossing also offers a scenic view. When you get off the ferry on Tsim Sha Tsui, you can catch the Kowloon Circle Hop on, Hop off Sightseeing Bus.

CHRISTMAS-TREE lookalike is actually the "miraculous" wishing tree.

I was impressed with the concept of this bus because it was the perfect way for first-time visitors to experience Hong Kong. As the name suggests, it allows you to hop on and off at strategic stops that would interest tourists. With an unlimited day ride pass (HK$30 or P198), one can hop off and shop at Park Lane Boulevard, Temple Street and Ladies' Market ("*ito na yung pinaka*-Greenhills *sa kanila*," I heard one shopper say), stroll at the Kowloon Walled City Park, or enjoy the sights at the Waterfront Promenade, then get back on the bus to visit eight other tourist destinations. A single-ride ticket costs HK$9.4 (P62) so it's much wiser to tour Kowloon all in one day, if that would be enough.

Another event that will be going on until February, aside from the Lights Up, is the "Rhythm of Light-Aqua Fantasia" musical fountain show, the largest Hong Kong has ever seen. Staged at the Centenary Garden in Tsim Sha Tsui East, the awesome display was the center of attraction during the official launch of the CLP Lights Up Hong Kong.

Inspired by Hong Kong's official flower, the bauhinia, the show features a fountain rising up to 20 meters in the air while a water jet at the center shoots up water even higher. Music and lights make the display even more colorful while a welcome message is shown across a wall of water. At one point, a fire flares up in front and you begin to wonder if ice rocks will eventually fall from the heavens as part of the show. As the impressive seven-minute show is free, no one should pass it up.

The City of Life's various events do not only take in place in the bustling city. The outlying islands and the New Territories show a different side of Hong Kong which will delight those who love the outdoors and want to learn more about the culture of this Special Administrative Region (SAR).

Go green

A 30-minute boat ride from Hong Kong island brings you to Lamma, known for its hiking trails and seafood restaurants. The island has trails suitable for both amateur and serious hikers. Some even cut across small villages so hikers get to see locals going about their daily routine.

On Lamma, I tasted the local version of *taho* or sweet bean curd, which you can have warm or cold. Although their *taho* is better tasting, I still prefer the sweetness of the Filipino concoction. Although I'm not that much into food, I couldn't resist what was laid out for us by Rainbow Restaurant, the Best of Culinary Award winner. I practically wolfed down everything offered us. Think roast duck, deep-fried garlic shrimp, large crabs in spicy sauce, steamed fish, among others.

The New Territories, on the other hand, is a rich tapestry of different province[illegible]ffering other nature-related tours. We visite[illegible] village of Lam Tsuen, a 200-year-old settle[illegible] not far from Tai Po. The village has two mai[illegible]ions: the Tin Hau Tem[illegible] the Hui Yuen or Wi[illegible] Trees. During the [illegible]ring Time Festival i[illegible] Kong, hundreds o[illegible] flock to the temple and pray before paying homage to the trees and making a wish. A 50-year-old legend tells the story of a boat dweller who has been sick for a long time. He got well after praying in front of a tree. News of the "miracle" spread quickly and people started believing that the tree coul[illegible] make wishes come true. A [illegible]eature on a television program made it famous and a tourist attraction.

To make a wish, like if you want to be the strongest in "The Weakest Link," simply buy a Ng Bo Dip (about HK$1 or less than P7), a mascot made of paper. Write down your wish, wrap it up and tie with a string attached to an orange (supplied) and then flip it up the tree. Those landing on higher branches are believed to be more likely to come true. This is where the fun starts. Hopefuls try different ways of tossing their wishes so they would land on the highest branch. I saw one who made several wild, circular swings of his arms before throwing his wish up the tree. It didn't get on any branch.

Even if your wish does not come true, there are so many other reasons to make a stay in Hong Kong truly enjoyable. With a metropolis awake 24 hours a day, seven days a week, as befitting the City of Life, you do not need statistics to realize that Hong Kong is worth a visit any time.

GOLDEN Ocampo at Camp John Hay's clubhouse

RADIO commentator Cielo del Mundo with Peachy Veneracion

MY agronomist brother Monching, who grows potatoes in Baguio, is seen here with Amy.

SEN. Rodolfo Biazon and wife, Montserrat, just celebrated 40 years of wedded bliss

GABBY Zosa

A chilly welcome to 2002

TEESAW

Raul Teehankee

WE hied off to the summer capital of the Philippines, Baguio City, and stayed at the exclusive Baguio Country Club as guests of businessman friend **Ramon Monzon**. The weather was perfect at a chilly 12 degrees Celsius.

Accommodations were spic-and-span and the club facilities first-class. The tennis court's artificial grass was ideal for a reintroductory course, the swimming pool heated to a comfortable temperature and the Japanese food at the Hamada outlet was comparable to that of any known restaurant in Manila.

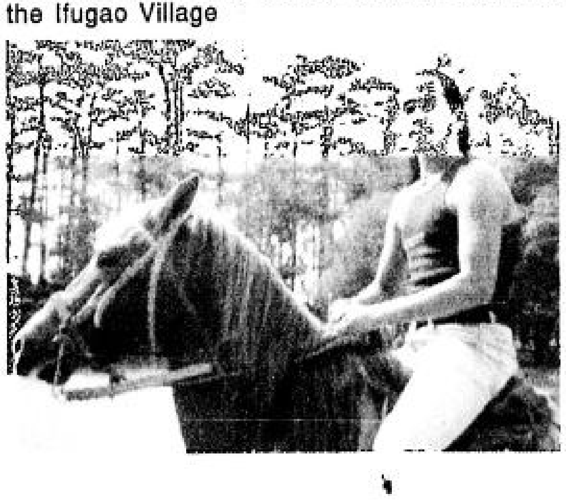
On a lazy afternoon, we took the tourist route to the strawberry fields of La Trinidad Valley, gobbling up freshly picked fruits on the way back. We also visited **Bencab**'s Tam-Awan (Ifugao) Village.

We went horseback riding in the morning. It was such a peaceful and perfect way to greet a new year, 2002, in a city where you can still smell the pine trees.

THE GROUP led by Ramon Monzon and Lorraine Schuck toured the Ifugao Village

STRAWBERRY fields in La Trinidad Valley

BASIL and Kathy Tanco with their kids



AT WRIGHT Park, my horse called Starblazer ridden by owner named Scott. 2002 is the Chinese Year of the Horse.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

TRAVEL

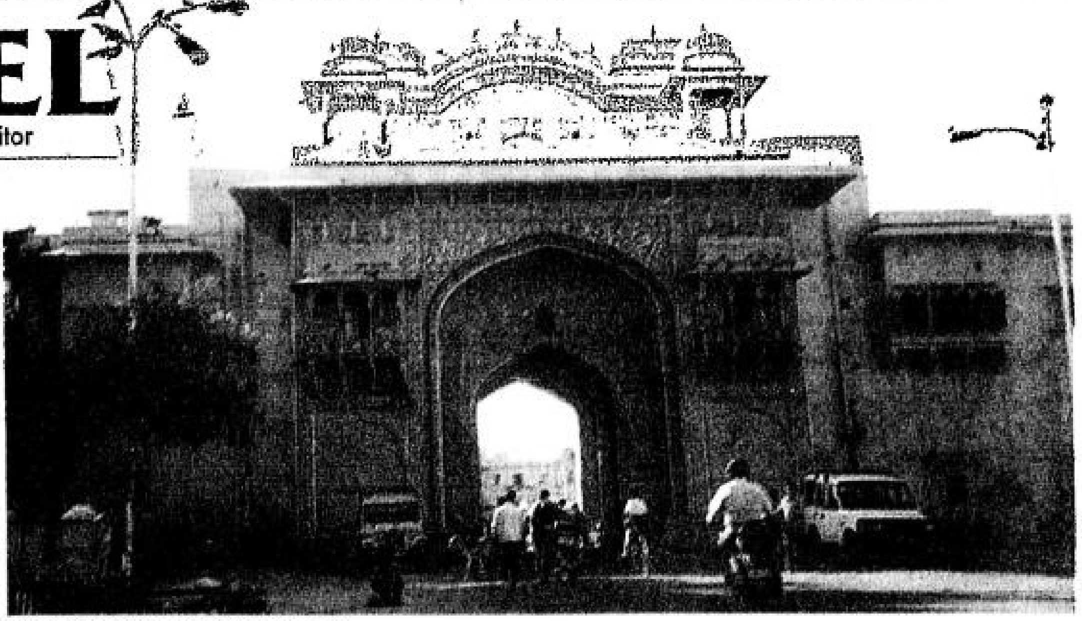
ROSARIO A. GARCELLANO, Editor

Journey to Jaipur

BY DOREEN G. FERNANDEZ

WE hit the ground running. The Board of Trustees of the Ramon Magsaysay Awards Foundation landed in New Delhi at about midnight, and went straight into cars for the early-morning ride to Jaipur. A fast drive, honking away behind fully laden cargo trucks (flowered backs inviting: Please blow your horn), took us by dawn into the hills of Rajasthan.

CAMEL as part of street life

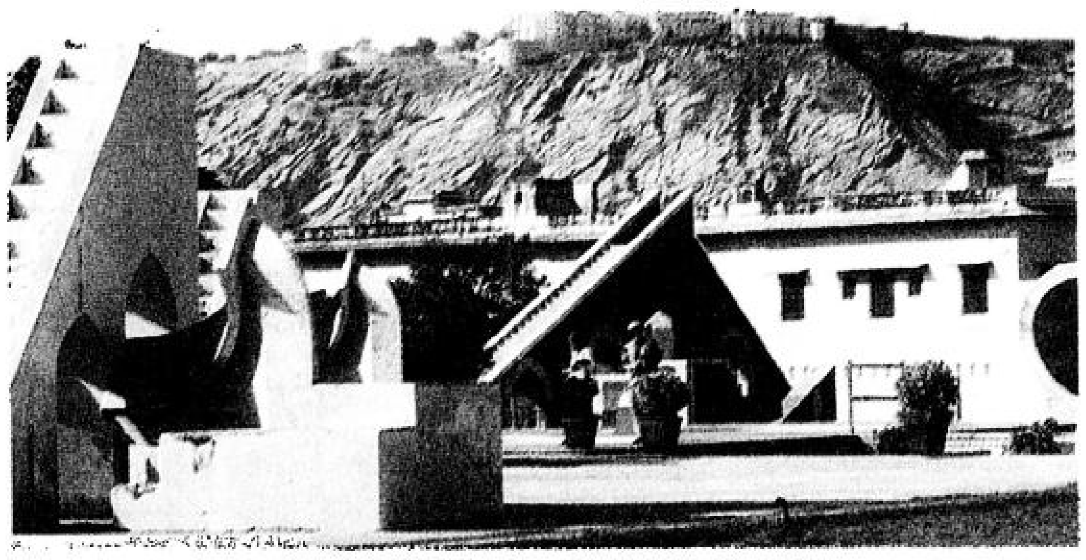

GATE leading to the old city

Up, up around the mountains we went, and at dawn saw the city of Jaipur rising from the mist—pink, serene, majestic. The pink walls of the buildings in the old city and their decorative patterns, enhanced by the placement of the windows, had been ordained in 1876 by Maharaja Ram Singh. Pink was the traditional color associated with hospitality, and it was meant to welcome the Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII of England) to the city. In 1956 Jaipur became the capital of the state of Rajasthan.

We drove into the awakening city, its streets soon filled with men and women walking to work, delivering milk cans, driving camel carts, riding rickshaws and bicycles, filling the streets with color. Peacefully strolling where they pleased were the cows, bulls and buffaloes, sacred to the people and fed by the community. The factories for weaving cotton bedspreads and tablecloths, for woodblock printing, for processing semi-precious gems, were opening up, too.

Our group was headed for a meeting with the RM awardees of the region, and our base was the Meghniwas Hotel, run by Brigadier Jaswant Singh and his sister Indu Singh.

All trustees and their wives, and all awardees and their wives or assistants were housed there. Everyone had meals there and eventually held meetings there to discuss the conference theme: "Technology for, by and with the Poor," and the Program for Asian Projects (PAP), follow-on grants that awardees can apply for after having received the award, to continue or expand replicable work already in place.


JANTAR Mantar, the observatory

The meeting

The awardees, who had each enhanced and enriched Asian life and spirit in their own contexts, represented every type of service recognized by the RM Awards.

M.S. Swaminathan (community leadership, 1971), who delivered the keynote address, is known as "the godfather of the Green Revolution" for work at the International Rice Research Institute and elsewhere against famine.

Tahrunnesa Ahmed Abdullah (community leadership, 1978) led rural Bangladeshi Muslim women from "the constraints of *purdah* toward more equal citizenship and fuller family responsibility."

Eduardo Jorge Anzorena, S.J. (international understanding, 1994) works hands-on, building houses for Asia's urban poor across national borders.

Jockin' Arputham (international understanding, 2000) extended his community building in Indian slums to Southeast Asia and Africa.

Kiran Bedi (government service, 1994) was and still is a police officer working in crime control, drug rehabilitation and humane prison reform. Most recently she has led her police corps into meditation ("policing yourself").

Chandi Prasad Bhatt (community leadership, 1982) inspired and guided Chipko Andolan, a predominantly women's environmental movement, to safeguard wise use of the forest.

Mahesh Chander Mehta (public service, 1997) claimed "for India's present and future citizens their constitutional right to a clean and healthy environment."

Aruna Roy (community leadership, 2000) empowered Indian villagers "to claim what is rightfully theirs by upholding and exercising the people's right to information."

Zacarias Sarian (journalism, 1974) set high standards for the editing and publishing of constructive farm news.

Pramod Karan Sethi (community leadership, 1981) invented the Jaipur Limb and the Jaipur Foot, handmade for and cost-accessible to the poor who sit on floors and wear slippers or sandals rather than shoes.

Arun Shourie (journalism, 1982) is "a concerned citizen employing his pen as an effective adversary of corruption, inequality and injustice."

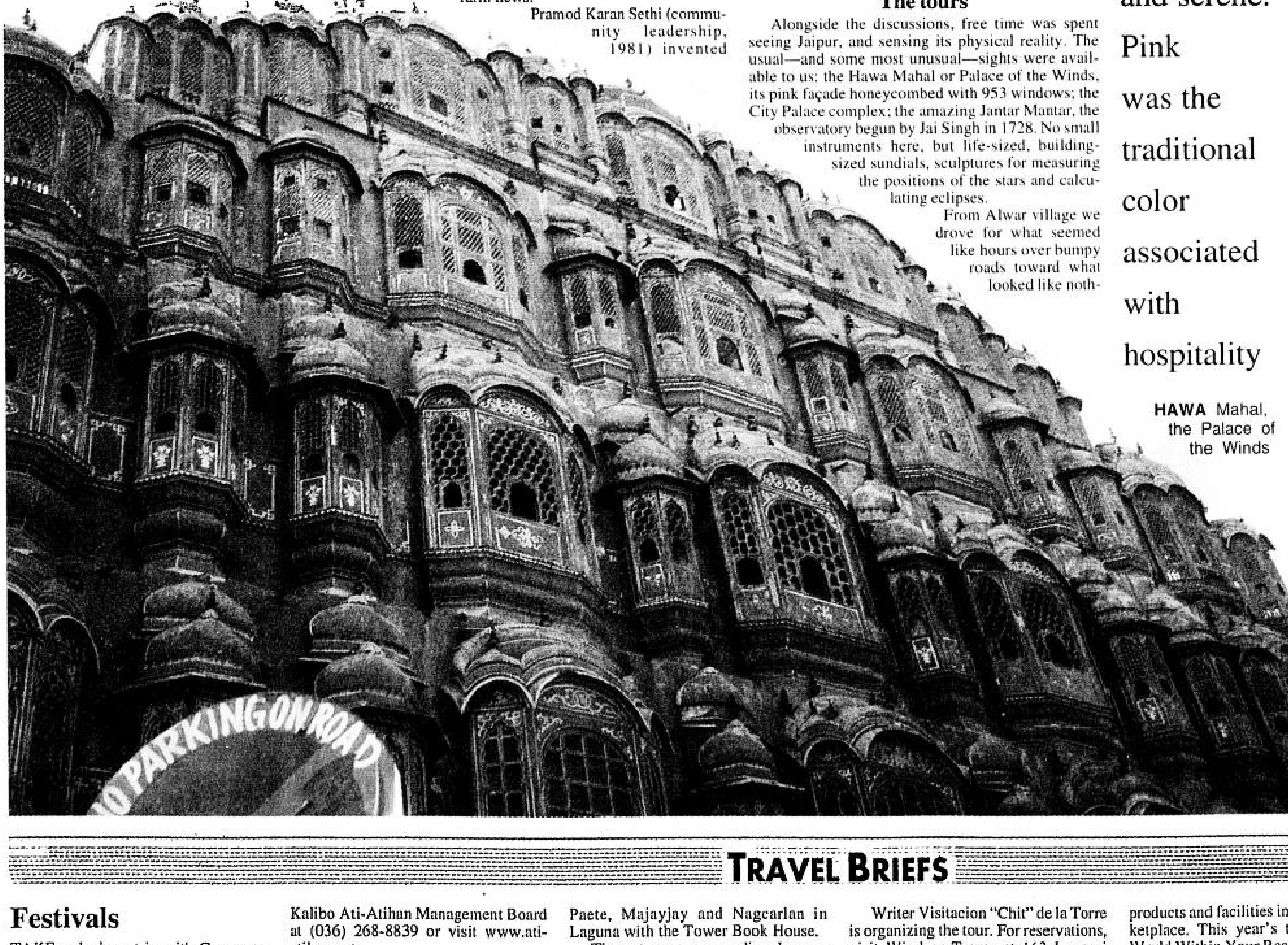
Tasneem Ahmed Siddiqui (government service, 1999) demonstrated that a "committed government agency working in partnership with (non-government organizations) and with the poor" can turn the tide against Pakistan's shelter crisis.

Rajendra Singh (community leadership, 2001) led his fellow villagers in rehabilitating their degraded habitat, harvesting water, rejuvenating greenery, building dams, and bringing dormant rivers back to life. On a site visit to his village in Alwar District, we witnessed his "putting tradition back into practice," such that villagers had water for planting, cash for expenses, milk from their own cows, schools for their children, sometimes extra vegetable crops, and great happiness on their faces.

The tours

Alongside the discussions, free time was spent seeing Jaipur, and sensing its physical reality. The usual—and some most unusual—sights were available to us: the Hawa Mahal or Palace of the Winds, its pink façade honeycombed with 953 windows; the City Palace complex; the amazing Jantar Mantar, the observatory begun by Jai Singh in 1728. No small instruments here, but life-sized, building-sized sundials, sculptures for measuring the positions of the stars and calculating eclipses.

From Alwar village we drove for what seemed like hours over bumpy roads toward what looked like nothing: gray fields, brush, trees in the fading light. What could possibly be at the end of the road? Behold, suddenly and without preparation, there was the Hotel Sariska Palace, majestic and high-ceilinged, built for the son of Queen Victoria who wished to hunt tigers.


HAWA Mahal, the Palace of the Winds

At dawn we saw the city rising from the mist—pink and serene. Pink was the traditional color associated with hospitality

RICHLY designed bed cover in Indian cotton

We took safari jeeps (one can take camels or horses as well) early one morning to perhaps glimpse tigers, but alas, they were not taking appointments. All around us, however, crows and little green parrots flew; monkeys and peacocks strolled in the sun. Since it was a center for Ayur-vedic healing, Jim Paredes tried that as well, with a massage using oil made of 17 different herbs.

Most magical was one evening arranged by Aruna Roy, at which village musicians (100 singers, instrumentalists and dancers) performed songs, dances and instrumental music in honor of the RM Awardees. They marched, they played instruments in various combinations; young boys sang in pure voices (born into families of musicians, their first cries, it is said, were musical); they danced and we were enchanted.

Jim Paredes introduced himself as a singer. "Sing!" they said. He did, and their instruments crept into what was real soul-to-soul jamming.

The food

Fear not—not all Indian food is hotly spicy. Unlike Filipino food, which is generally linear and simple, Indian food rose from a tradition of complexity: a myriad spices, combined differently into subtle flavors.

Charito Nanagas discovered *dhal*, and when she asked for a recipe, was told that there were as many as there were cookbooks. Breads—*chapatis*, *nan*, etc. from a hot oven were divine to dip, and wrap, and eat by themselves. *Ratia*, yoghurt with cucumbers, cooled palates heated by spices—and there are innumerable types, combining vegetables in pleasing combinations.

We were taken to traditional restaurants of many kinds, and at the end were bold enough to enter an eatery, ask questions, and place our own orders. No beef (sacred) or pork (dirty animal, said one guide), of course, only good mutton and lamb, chicken, and such exotica as mutton brains. And there is that wonderful Basmati rice, appreciated by rice eaters all over Asia.

The shopping

Jaipur and Delhi—indeed all of India—offer good shopping because handicrafts continue in tradition and practice, with prices comparatively low, especially for those calculating in Philippine pesos. The semi-precious stones—garnets, rose quartz, amethysts, tigers' eyes, turquoises, corals, etc.—are reasonably priced, and if you fear to venture into a bazaar, call and a jeweler will come to show his wares and accept orders. The bazaars and markets are rife with silver work, carpets, hand-woven bags and fabrics, embroidery, and shawls.

Pashmina is the buzzword. A pure wool pashmina is soft, warm, and its whole length can be drawn through a ring. Wool-silk and wool-acrylic blends come in all hues and shades to match every color wish. The old *shatoosh* was the ultimate: made from Angora goats' hair harvested from bushes and brambles, soft as dreams, warm as love. They are now illegal, because the demand caused goats to be killed for their hair, endangering the species. The Jaipur chief of police, learning that one of us had been offered *shatoosh*, turned stern, retrieving dates, names, and circumstances, with full intent to arrest.

Let us not forget, however, the range of Kashmiri shawls, in paisley patterns, hand-embroidered, individually created for competitions, like mirages from a dream fabric world.

Our journey to Jaipur was a rich experience—of people doing significant work for their countries and communities; of life lived on the edges of tradition and modernity; of a country taking its traditions into the global village.

Gems: call Guddu, 982-906-1688; e-mail gemsplace gp@hotmail.com. Rural artisan crafts: Tilonia: 91-1463-42016; e-mail barefoot@jp1.dot.net.in. Pashmina: Inder Gupta, Ramayana Cottage Emporium, 646-9308, 621-6864, New Delhi; e-mail ramayana.crafts@vsnl.com. Hand-knotted carpets and block-printed textiles: Anil Exports, Natwara House, Old Amer Rd., Jaipur; 635-716, 635-720; fax 91-141-635716; e-mail kaushal@pinkline.net.

TRAVEL BRIEFS

Festivals

TAKE a daylong trip with Causeway Travel to San Pablo's celebration of the Coconut Festival on Jan. 13.

This annual tourist drawer is highlighted by a parade featuring merrymakers garbed in costumes made from coconut-derived materials.

For details and reservations, call 853-8728 or 0917-396-3963.

* * *

HEAD to Kalibo for the Ati-Atihan Festival, a longstanding tradition in Aklan that celebrates the feast of the Holy Child and commemorates the purchase of Panay island from the Aeta king Marikudo.

For more information, call the Kalibo Ati-Atihan Management Board at (036) 268-8839 or visit www.ati-atihan.net.

* * *

CATCH the city of Koronadal's Hinugyaw Festival, which ends on Jan. 10.

Among other attractions, there's a trade fair showcasing local products and souvenirs, and also street dancing featuring a cultural parade dubbed "The Festival of Festivals."

Koronadal is the former Marbel (from the B'laan word for "murky water").

Franciscan tour

OR visit the quaint towns of Morong, Tanay and Baras in Rizal and Pakil, Paete, Majayjay and Nagcarlan in Laguna with the Tower Book House.

These towns surrounding Laguna de Bay were founded by Franciscan missionaries who left their imprint on the churches and towns they built as well as on the lifestyle and traditions of the people they evangelized.

The tour will cover Morong's baroque church; Tanay's church and convent, an unusual example of mission architecture; Baras' church and its miraculous cross; Pakil's Virgin of Turumba; Paete's crafts (woodcarving, *papier mâché* horses) and its church's historical paintings; Majayjay's three-story church with relief sculptures; and Nagcarlan's church and the underground cemetery used by the Katipuneros.

Writer Visitacion "Chit" de la Torre is organizing the tour. For reservations, visit Windsor Tower at 163 Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City, or call 815-6925 or 815-4938.

Travel Tour Expo 2002

PREPARATIONS are on for the biggest annual travel event, the Travel Tour Expo 2002 (TTE 2002), on Feb. 8-10 at the Megatrade Hall 1 & 2 of the SM Megamall.

TTE 2002 is being organized by the Philippine Travel Agencies Association (PTAA) and the Department of Tourism, with Citibank and Philippine Airlines as major sponsors.

It is the only industry show that puts together the best of domestic and international tourism, and travel-related products and facilities in one giant marketplace. This year's theme is "The World Within Your Reach."

Discounts and privileges are available for all PTAA members and early birds. Special awards will also be given to the Best Decorated Booth, Best in Marketing Effort and Most Popular Booth. Exhibitors who will hit the P1-million revenue mark will join the PTAA's prestigious "Millionaires Club."

For details, contact the PTAA Secretariat at 552-0025 to 26 or the Exhibit Manager Convex International at 726-8664 to 65 or 726-4128 to 30.

New travel shop

TRAVELERS in search of the best deals and selections on luggage and accessories are invited to check out the new Travel Club branch at the second level of SM Megamall.

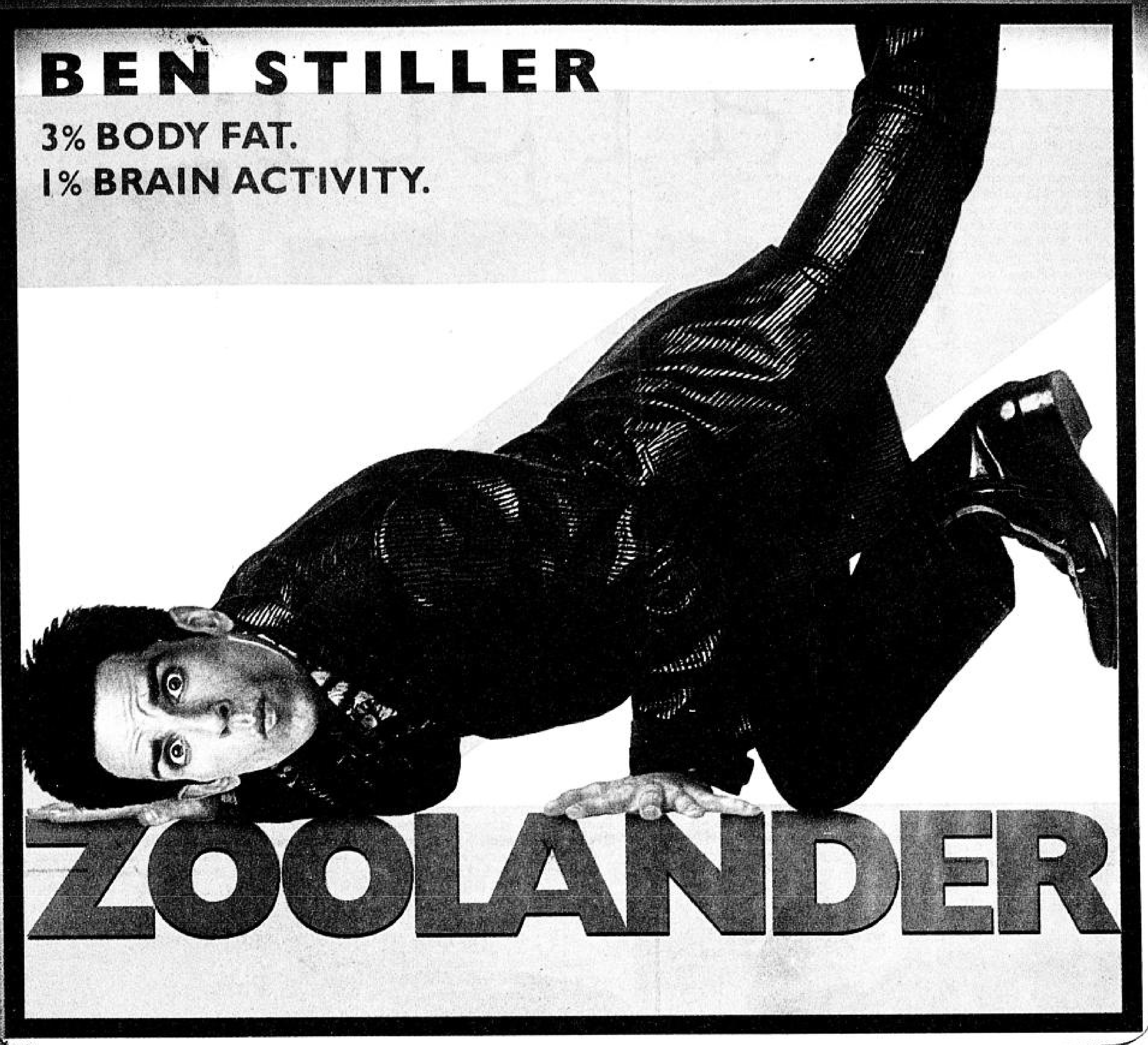
The store offers not only luggage from the world's favorite brands at competitive prices but also travel books, maps, brochures on different countries as well as computer terminals for customers needing information on their destinations.

Plans are underway for the store to offer travel-related services to make globe-trotting a breeze.

The other Travel Club shops are located at the Shangri-La Plaza, SM City North Edsa, SM City Cebu, SM Iloilo, SM Manila, Glorietta 4, Alabang Town Center, Ayala Center Cebu and Harrison Plaza.

Get set for the year's biggest blockbuster comedy!

THE
SMART
Cinema Club


BEN STILLER
3% BODY FAT.
1% BRAIN ACTIVITY.
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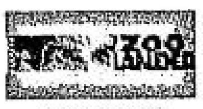
www.zoolander.com

MTRCB Rating: PG-13

Join the Smart Cinema Club now and get exclusive access to logos, picture messages, group graphics, screen savers, and Zoolander personality tests!

Official Zoolander graphics


ZOOLANDERL
(Operator Logo/Group Graphic)

ZOOFACEOFF
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

ZOODEREK1L
(Operator Logo/Group Graphic)

ZOOTITLEPOSE
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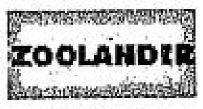
ZOOTITLEL
(Operator Logo/Group Graphic)

ZOOCLOSEUP
(Picture Message/Screen Saver)

Are you a Supermodel?

Test if you're supermodel material or not.
Key in **PLAY ZOO**, then send to 239.

To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the number <1,2, or 3> corresponding to your choice, then send to 239.

Are you a Trendsetter or a Follower?

Time to separate the leaders from the copycats.
Key in **PLAY ZOO2**, then send to 239.

To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the number <1,2, or 3> corresponding to your choice, then send to 239.

How much Brain Activity?

Find out how much of your brain is active.
Key in **PLAY ZOO3**, then send to 239.

To answer the questions, press REPLY and key in the number <1,2, or 3> corresponding to your choice, then send to 239.

Note: If you're playing a Smart Cinema Club game, quit first before you start the personality test. To quit, key in QUIT and send to 239.

Get a pair of Zoolander premiere tickets for FREE!

Two ways to join!

1 Download a Zoolander logo, group graphic, picture message, and screen saver.

a. To access Zoolander logos, group graphics, picture messages, and screen savers, you must be a Smart Cinema Club member.

To join:
- Key in **JOIN CINEMA** and send to 239.

b. Once you are a member, you may download Zoolander icons. Simply follow the table on the right.

c. Smart Cinema Club members who show their Zoolander icons (on their celfones) on January 12, 2002 from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. at the Smart Cinema Club booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3) shall get two tickets each to watch the premiere on the same night at 8 p.m.

To Get Zoolander...	Key In...
Logo List of Keywords	LOGO ZOO and send to 239
Logos	LOGO <keyword> and send to 239
Group Graphics Keywords	GROUP ZOO and send to 239
Group Graphics	GROUP <keyword> and send to 239
Picture Messages List of Keywords	PIC ZOO and send to 239
Picture Messages	PIC <keyword> and send to 239
Screen Savers List of Keywords	SAVER ZOO and send to 239
Screen Savers	SAVER <keyword> and send to 239

All text messages will be charged P2.50 each. Logos, graphics, picture messages, and screen savers are P 12.00 each.

2 Use your SMART Money card to buy movie tickets at any SM Megamall cinema.

a. Smart Money cardholders who use their cards to buy any movie ticket at any SM Megamall cinema from January 5-11, 2002 are also entitled to a pair of premiere tickets each.

b. Present the Smart Money receipt on January 12, 2002, 6 pm, at the Smart Cinema Club booth (SM Megamall Cinema 3), to claim the free tickets.

Note: Smart Cinema Club members and Smart Money cardholders can avail themselves of the promo only once.

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2002 CALENDAR

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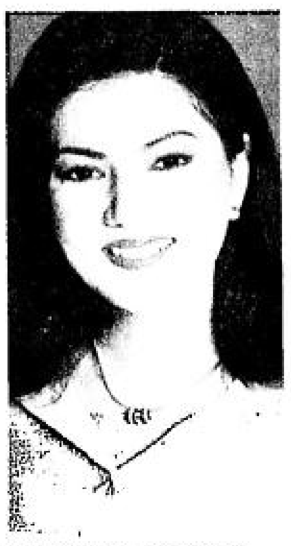
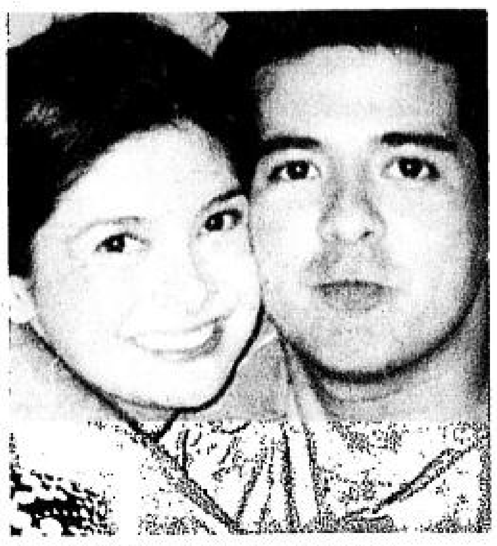
SHERYL Cruz

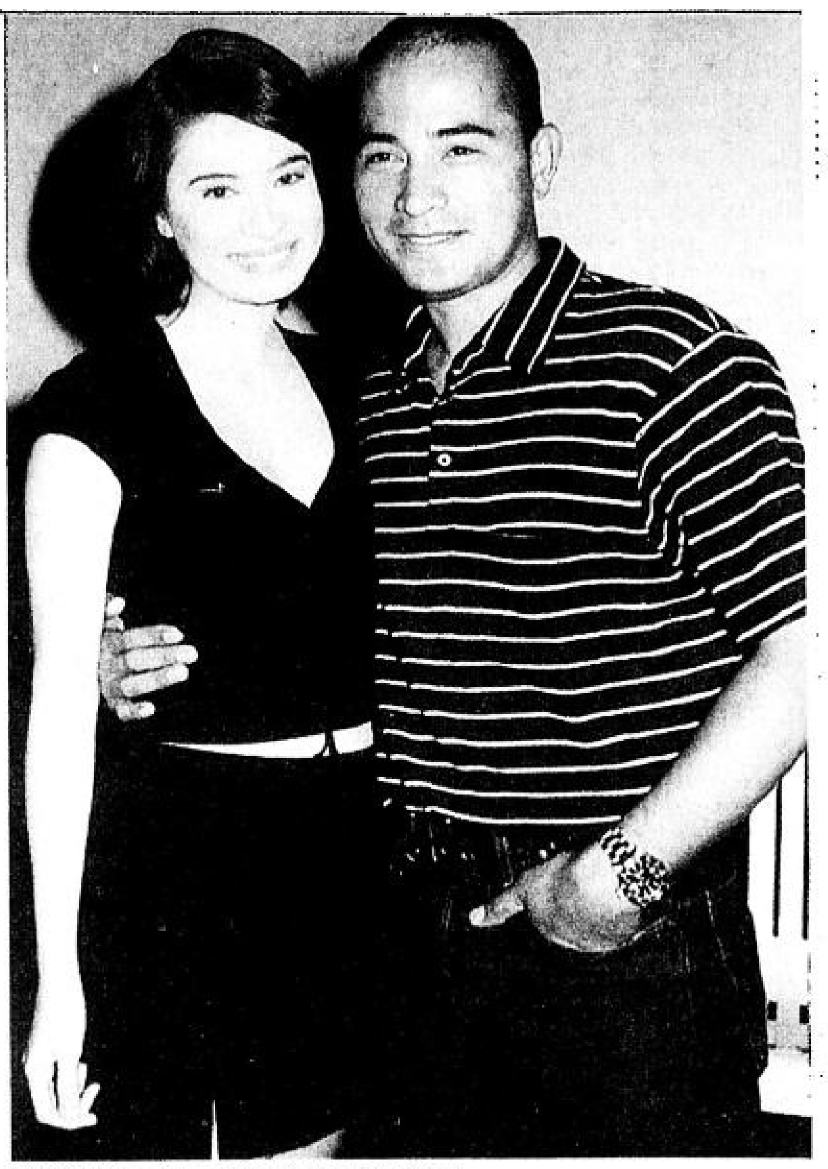


CARMINA Villaroel

PAT-P Daza Planas and baby Francine Gabrielle



CHARLENE Gonzales and Aga Muhlach



SUNSHINE Cruz and Cesar Montano

The lives and styles of 2001

BARRING Edsa II and "III" and Sept. 11, what made 2001 distinct, lifestyle-wise? Celebrities became first-time mothers, some of them giving birth to twins, never mind if they were mum on the identities of the fathers. The smell of good cooking wafted in every corner of the Metro, the revolution in health and fitness continued, and the arts scene continued to show signs of vibrancy and resiliency.

First-time moms greet first year of 21st century

'TWAS the year of first-time moms in and out of show business. After disappearing from the scene for more than a year, controversial actress Carmina Villaroel resurfaced with a sexier figure. Twenty-five-year-old Carmina, who was said to have gone on a secret maternity leave, is still mum on reports that she gave birth to twins via Caesarean section in a California hospital during the first week of January last year. The twins, reportedly a boy and a girl named Mavy and Casey, were supposedly sired by actor Zoren Legaspi.

San Francisco-based former teen sensation Sheryl Cruz gave birth to Ashley Nicole last May. Sheryl had been looking forward to motherhood as it had been four years since she and Norman John Bustos got married in San Francisco, where the latter works.

Actress Sunshine Cruz gave birth to a 7.3-lbs baby girl, her first-born with multiawarded actor Cesar Montano. Sunshine had the baby by normal delivery, after almost 24 hours in the labor room at St. Luke's Medical Center last Sept. 24. The baby was named Angelina Isabelle. The couple got married in a grand wedding in September 2000 at the Coconut Palace.

Sexy actress Ina Raymundo had never felt complete. She gave birth to her first child last Oct. 10. Named Ericka Rae, the newborn is a bundle of joy for the actress and her Canadian boyfriend Brian Poturnak. They plan to get married this year.

Show-biz couple Charlene Gonzales and Aga Muhlach became the proud parents of twins Atasha Aaron and Antonio Andres, via Caesarean section. Charlene was already three months pregnant when she married Aga last May 28 in an illustrious ceremony in Baguio City. The family is now happily living in their lovely Mediterranean-inspired home in Alabang.

Pat-P Daza, daughter of journalist Jullie Yap Daza and ABS-CBN corporate communications director, gave birth to her first-born, Francine Gabrielle, with Quezon City Councilor Mike Planas last July.

Only a few maternity stores realized that pregnant women would like to continue dressing in their pre-pregnancy style. Havin' a Baby, Gingersnaps and Big and Small offered a great selection of outfits styled to flatter one's heavy figure. Their clothes would carry one through the pregnancy.

More fashion designers added maternity designs to their line. They included Frederick Peralta, Eddie Baddeo and Edgar Allan, all known to create glamorous wardrobe for pregnant women in order to make them feel confident and sexy during their pregnancy.

Vangie Baga-Reyes

Filling year for dine-outers

HARD times or not, food is the one thing that every human being cannot do without. The year 2001 saw the Pinoy consumer going for value for money in terms of grocery (notice how almost every product on the market has "budget" or "*tipid*" packs) and dining out. The age of indulging and splurging is long gone. If the Malacañang occupants are any indication of this, one source says that the previous occupant used to have P3,000 per bottle wines delivered on an ordinary day. Since Edsa II there has been a radical shift. Though the current occupants still consume pretty much the same volume (for entertaining guests and dignitaries) the wine now costs much less at a respectable P300 per bottle.

The past year saw an opening of several wine bars in the Makati district—Shiraz and Flute to name a few. These establishments are really doing very good business, thanks to the young Makati professionals. Not too many fine dining places opened and those that are still in business sometimes have found it hard to stay afloat. Among the fine dining places that have managed to do quite well in spite of the recession is Le Soufflé over at the Fort and Ortigas Center. Jessie Sincioco thanks her heavenly stars that the regulars have remained loyal and that business, in spite of the hard times, is still pretty good. A third outlet has just opened at The Manor, the newest hotel within Camp John Hay. New Year's Eve found the place packed with a little over 200 people. Sincioco admits though that she has had to adjust to the budgets of catering clients. "They've had to cut back on some of their expenses and since they have been with us since we opened, I think it's only fair that we adjust also. *Ganyan talaga*," she sighs.

The year 2001 saw the mushrooming of bar and grill places all over the Metro. C5 in Ortigas, for example, has Grilla, Gerry's, Congo and a host of other places. Kalayaan Avenue in Makati toward the Rockwell area is a close second. The success of these places can be attributed to three things—location, good food and reasonable prices. Again, it's value for money.

Food strips were another trend. Rockwell started it and Megamall soon followed suit. Restaurants side by side one another, remaining open long after the mall lights had been shut, became popular. Whether for dinner or coffee, people just liked to meet and shoot the breeze.

Eastwood City joined up with an enclave of fine restaurants, bars and coffee places. Whether breakfast (Country Waffles), Spanish food (Twist by Minggoy's), Vietnamese cuisine (Pho Hoa), bar (Blue Onion), fine dining (Via Mare) or good old Filipino food (Mama Rosa), Eastwood has it, with the pulsating nightlife of Libis as plus point.

Clearly, especially in hard times, food comforts.

Cathy Babao Guballa

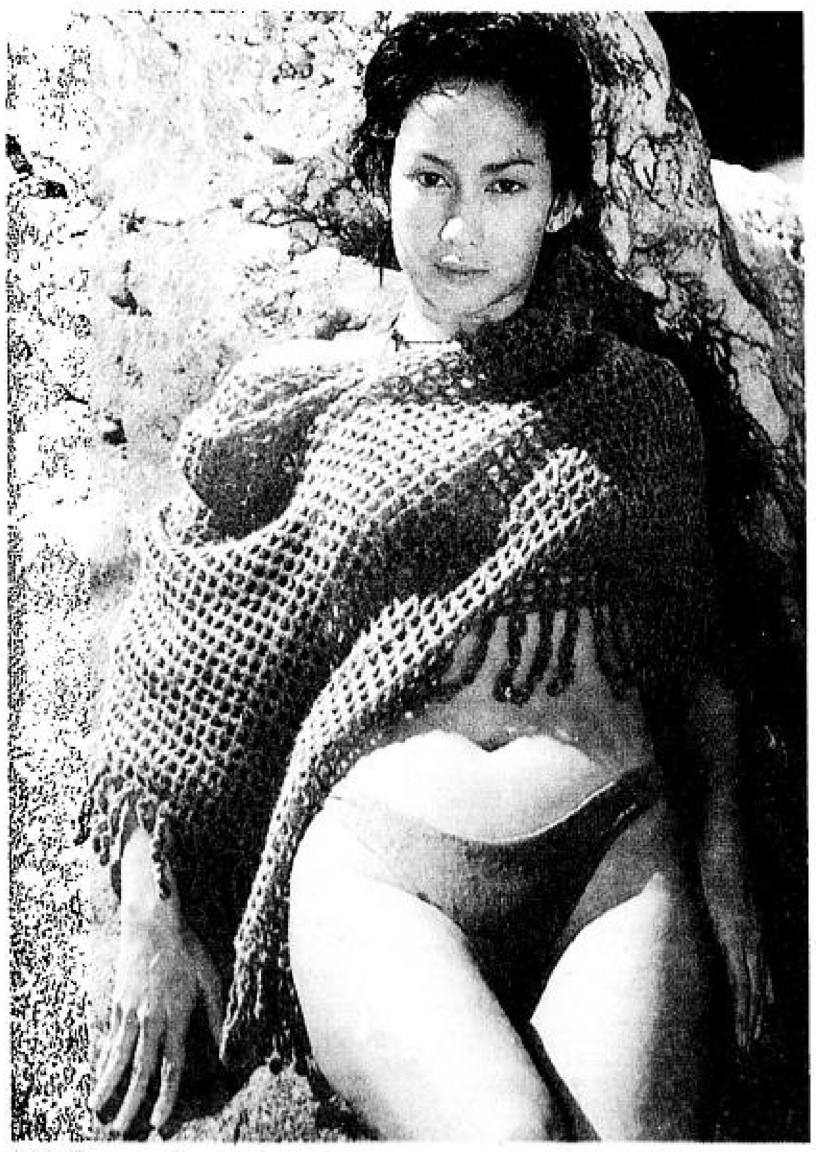
Huffing and puffing through 2001

LAST year, there was a boom in Far East forms of exercise, which are gentle and mindful of movement and total body conditioning. Simultaneously, however, at the other end of the spectrum, there were still the hard-core, no pain, no gain workouts.

Yoga, a discipline developed in India more than 5,000 years ago, is the mother of all mind-body exercises. Perhaps because its movements help develop balance and flexibility and relaxes both mind and body, it became even more popular in a year of living dangerously.

Pilates, a movement therapy which combines stretching and proper alignment, also attracted attention, so much so that the waiting list has become longer. Taught in settings ranging from fitness studios to huge teaching hospitals, the method demands more personal supervision than other exercise programs because it demands precision. Pilates addresses issues of injury prevention,

THE LIVES/p.E2



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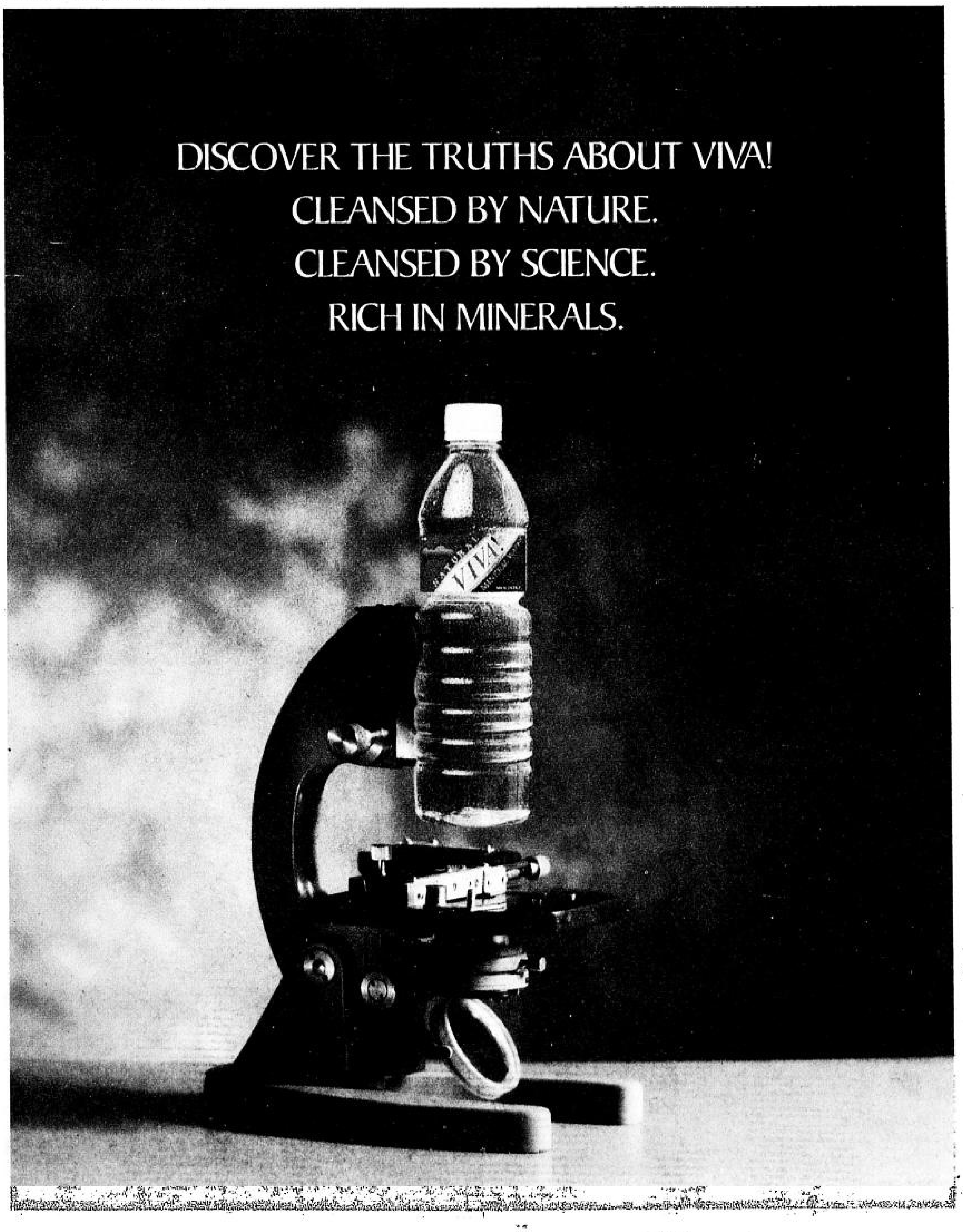


The lives and styles of 2001

(From page E1)

correct breathing, dynamic stretching and strengthening.

Along with the softer workout styles, 2001 also saw an equally strong shift toward hard-core, high-intensity workouts whose primary goal is to burn calories and built strength. Taebo, spinning and body pump were the trends of the past year which lured people off the couch and into the health clubs, or the makeshift office gym. The good thing about taebo is that all the equipment one needs is one's body.

Spinning, an indoor cycling craze that had been building over the past few years, gave the practitioner the benefits of an outdoor bike ride without leaving the air-conditioned comfort of a workout room.

Resistance training, which uses weights, tubes or the gravity of one's own body to challenge the muscles and increase bone density, also made a comeback. Exercisers recognized their value for weight management, osteoporosis and overall health.

There was diversification in group exercises. Classes based on the dance and music styles of Eastern cultures became the vogue.

Personal trainers focused more on the whole person, coaching their clients on overall wellness and stress reduction.

More hotels, airlines and cruise ships emphasized spa-like experiences. Nutrition sessions, exercise classes and treatments were offered.

Because people spent much time working indoors, outdoor fitness programs became more popular. Walking, jogging and hiking brought even more people outside.

Many multinational corporations sponsored week-long survivor games, patterned after the cable TV program, "Survivor," either to promote team-building among its employees or the features of their new products. Such events included rock climbing, war games, hiking, biking and racing.

Outdoor activities such as kayaking, mountain biking, climbing and whitewater rafting continued to gain in popularity. Board sports like surfing, skateboarding and windsurfing drew new participants looking for an adrenaline rush and fitness benefits.

Rowena C. Burgos

Arts and culture survive politics

DESPITE the wily politicking behind the partition of the Department of Education, Culture and Sports; the ferocious internal struggles at the National Commission for Culture and the Arts and the Cultural Center of the Philippines; the Manila City Hall's brazen tampering with historical and cultural landmarks; and the relatively low priority government gives to things of the spirit, the flowering of the arts continues in the country.

Music

The Philippine Philharmonic Orchestra opened the year with two acclaimed concerts featuring Ariel Dechosa on Beethoven's Piano Concerto No. 5 and Wilfredo Pasamba on Haydn's Cello Concerto in D Major.

The PPO season was closed by Cecile Licad on Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2. Before this, New York, Washington, D.C., and Boston were raving over her new Chopin repertoire, and later, Seattle gave an ovation to her rendering of Liszt's "Malediction."

For its second season, the National Philharmonic Society mounted a concert of art songs, duets and arias featuring soprano Rachelle Gerodias and tenor Lemuel de la Cruz, to standing ovation and a roar of approval.

In August, the Asian Youth Orchestra performed in Manila with Licad and violin prodigy Leila Josefowicz.

In November, Manila heard one of the best chamber-music groups in the world, the Prague-based Suk Chamber Orchestra, with Chinese violinist Yue Yao as soloist in Vivaldi's "The Four Seasons."

"MISS SAIGON" in Manila

Visual arts

The Metropolitan Museum of Manila led in bringing international art over to the country: the collages of Hannah Höch, sole female member of the Berlin Dada Movement and a pioneer of the photomontage (*montage* is a term coined by the Berlin Dadaists); Spanish abstractionist Gonzalo Martín-Calero's "Verdad," exquisite works in oil, drawings and collages; "Circunstancias de la Vida," an exhibit of paintings by 36 contemporary artists of Peru, followed by an exhibit of artifacts from pre-Aztec Peruvian civilization.

Signaling the art boom was the launch of ArtPetron, the newest national competition for student artists, in oil and acrylic.

Gallery Genesis continued with its Kulay sa Tubig Annual Invitational Watercolor Competition, with the resulting exhibit at Artcenter drawing crowds.

The Asia Society presented "Sheer Realities: Power and Clothing in 19th-Century Philippines" at the Metropolitan Museum, showcasing the material culture of that period in the country.

The Museum of the Filipino People highlighted indigenous cultures with two major exhibits: "Mga Hinabing Panaginip," featuring the heritage fabrics of the T'boli, the 100 best *t'nalak* patterns of the last millennium; and "Silk and Brass: Highlights of the Datu Mastura Collection," featuring the textile art, metal craft and woodcarving of the Maguindanao and the Maranao, ongoing until Jan. 26.

Also this year, *komiks* illustration was elevated to high art when Francisco V. Coching and Larry Alcala were shortlisted for the National Artists Awards. The CCP even held a major exhibit of Coching's original *komiks* illustrations, blown-up digitized photographic images, and screenings of movies based on his characters and novels.

Theater

"Miss Saigon" in Manila drew to a close. Zeneida Amador gave a ball-of-fire performance as King Lear in Anton Juan's staging of the play at the CCP.

Other theater productions that made some stir were Paul Dumol's version of "Hamlet," Nick Joaquin's "Pinoy Agonistes," Repertory Philippines' "Our Town" and "Master Class," "Rent," "The Vagina Monologues," the Philippine Educational Theater Association's "The Maids ni Jean Genet."

The CCP showcased regional drama by mounting "A Festival of Four Plays: A Celebration of Philippine Theater," the culmination of the NCCA's year-long project Sandiwaan. Of 13 theater pieces, four were chosen—Iloilo's "Panayon," Mindanao's "Mindasilang," Bicol's "Kantada ni Daragang Magayon Mandiriga," and Manila's "Bilog"—and toured throughout the country.

Over at the Metropolitan Museum, the lavish "Hugis at Hubog/ Shape and Form: An Exhibit of Filipino Scenography," presented by the Philippine Association of Theater Designers and Technicians, is ongoing until Jan. 5.

Dance

Early this year, the Royal Winnipeg Ballet of Canada performed in Manila with minor glitches but overall excellence.

In September, Ballet Manila artistic director Lisa Macuja was conferred the Order of Friendship by Russian President Vladimir Putin. She starred in Profokiev's "Romeo and Juliet" at the CCP, with Alexander Vikulov conducting the PPO.

Toward Christmas, Ballet Manila presented "The Nutcracker" at the Star City Theater amid carnival atmosphere and circus acts such as fire-eating, animals on parade, gymnastics, pop music and video. Talk of bringing high art to the masses.

Cinema

Marilou Diaz-Abaya was honored as Grand Prize Laureate for filmmaking at Fukuoka Asian Culture Prizes. And Jeffrey Jeturian's "Tuhog" was accepted for a special competition at Venice.

At the Brussels International Film Festival, the Quizons—Dolphy and sons Eric and Jeffrey—bagged the awards for both Best Actor and Best Actress, for Gil Portes' "Markova: Comfort Gay." Joel Lamangan got a prize for direction for "Deathrow."

Lav Diaz came up with the longest film in Philippine cinema history, the five-hour "Batang Westside."

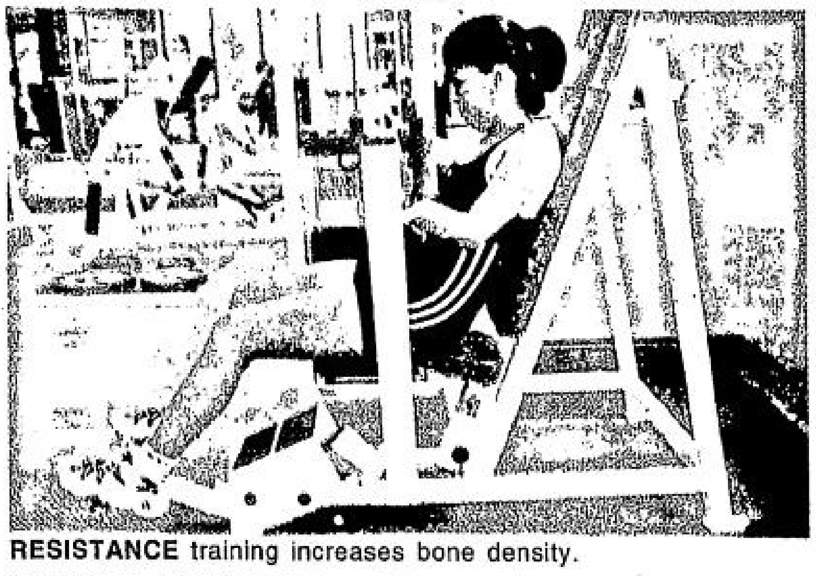
And before the year could end, serious filmgoers had something to look forward to—the Metro Manila Film Festival, particularly Diaz-Abaya's "Bagong Buwan" and Tikoy Aguiluz's "Tatarin."

National Artists

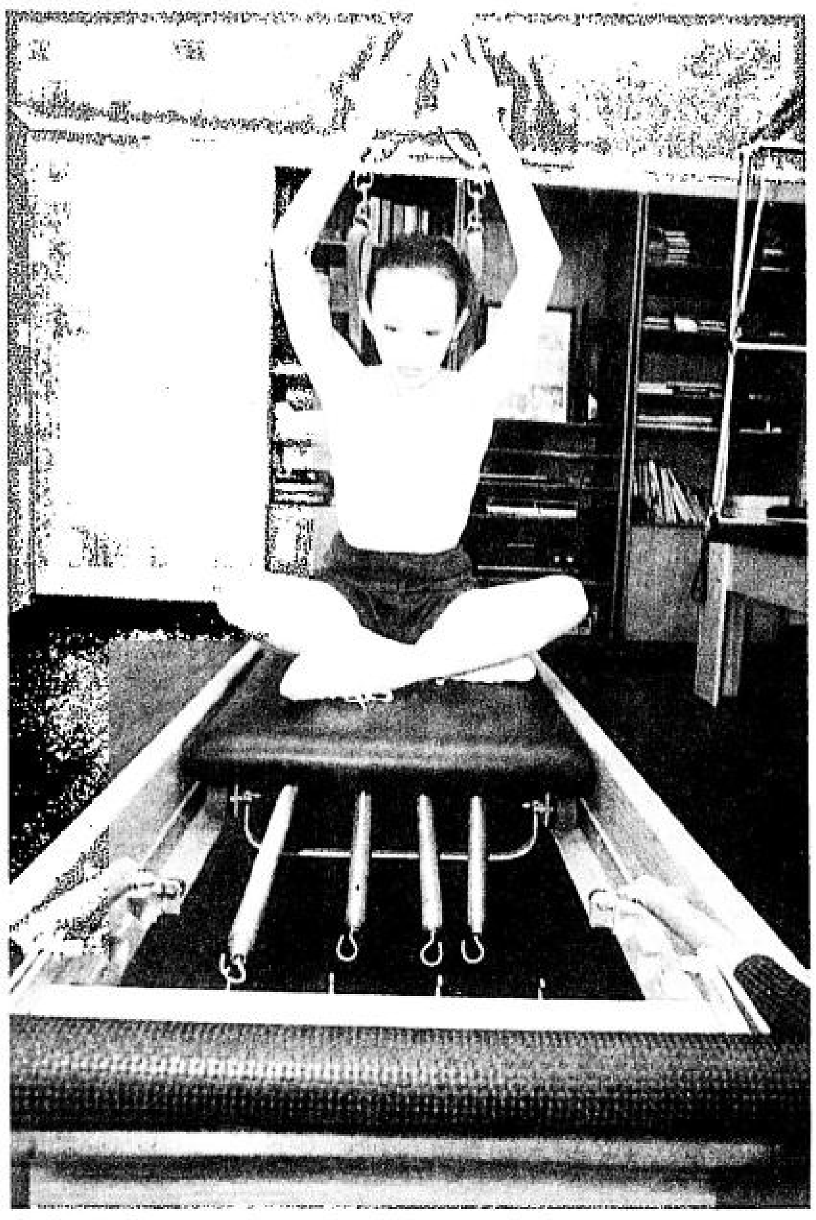
Proclaimed by Malacañang as the new National Artists were Ishmael Bernal, for film; Severino Montano, for drama; Ang Kiukok, for painting; and F. Sionil José, for literature.

These are Filipino artists who can stride up the world's stage. Which only confirms our full flowering as a nation.

Constantino C. Tejero



RESISTANCE training increases bone density.



CECILE Sicangco shows the Pilates method.

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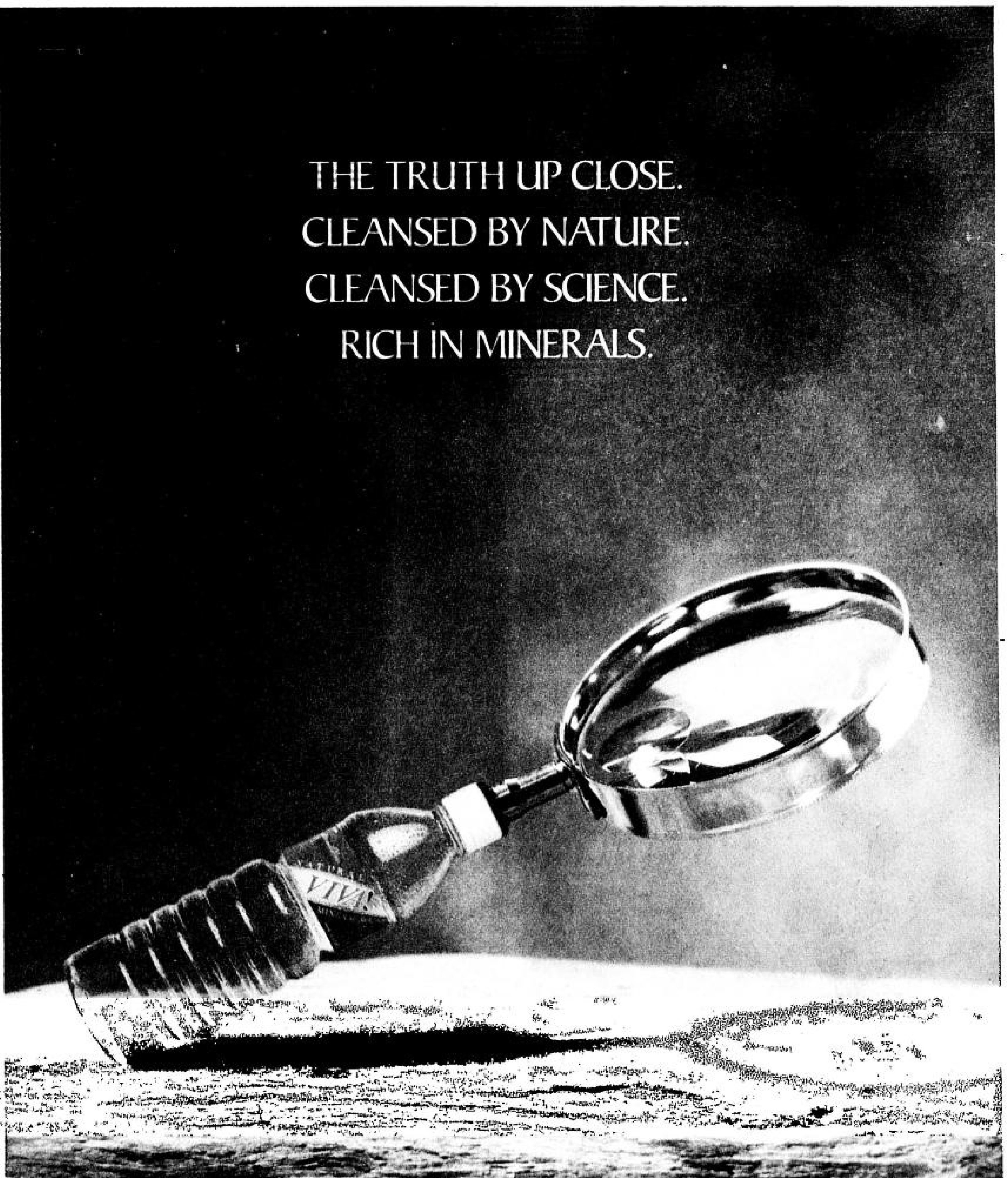

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BETTER WITH AGE. Margie Moran sparkles, while Sunshine Cruz glows.

THE BEST AND THE WORST. Eula Valdez slips in a flower-inspired cutout and gets lucky in a semibeaded column.

Filmfest winners lose in fashion department

By Alex Y. Vergara
PHOTOS BY JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

SISTERS Alessandra and Assunta de Rossi might have won the top acting plums in the recent Metro Manila Film Festival, but they failed miserably in the fashion department with hideous gowns no self-respecting Italian—or Filipino—would be caught dead in.

Alessandra tried to pull off a gypsy look. Instead, she ended up looking like a bedraggled peasant in a hideous off-shoulder number with a hanky-drop hemline and made from a mishmash of fabrics with dizzying floral prints. The teen star went for size with a huge cabbage rose and a pair of hoop earrings as accessories. Even Esmeralda, ladylove of Quasimodo, the Hunchback of Notre Dame, wasn't this desperate for attention. If Alessandra is the future of Philippine movies, then it is indeed in deep fashion trouble.

TAKE TWO. Miriam Quiambao dons her second and perhaps best gown for the evening.

Big sister Assunta milked her new status as a bombshell with a reviling, er, revealing gown with a plunging neckline and a mile-long slit that left little to the imagination. As if showing her ample chest wasn't enough, Assunta went over the top by exposing her slender gams as well. We have no problems with indecent exposure provided it's done in calculated doses. Judging from the poorly fitting bodice, her azure gown, like several filmfest entries, must have been rushed to meet the deadline. A word of advice to up-and-coming actresses: Don't be photographed in anything you'd be ashamed to show your kids 20 years later.

In contrast, fellow boldie Stella Ruiz looked refreshingly refine in a strapless number made of pink satin. Even the usually daring Ana Capri put on the brakes, choosing a black spaghetti-strapped number that didn't require her to debase herself on stage. Of course, the temperature at the Philippine International Convention Center would have soared had the brazen Rosanna Roces made an appearance. Boy, how we miss those days!

Going minimalist

Usually ornate dresser Angelika de la Cruz went surprisingly minimalist in a sleeveless red gown with faux fur accent around the neckline. The outfit didn't flatter her figure. Better luck next time, girl! For some reason, the winsome lass appeared to have gained weight lately. So had Jolina Magdangal, it seemed. She looked fat in a pleated shimmering gown accented on the chest.

Amy Austria looked nondescript in a draped black gown with a drop waist that harked back to the '80s. What caught our attention, though, was her straight, one-length hairdo that glowed in the dark. Former bombshell Sunshine Cruz played it safe in a magenta corset made of Thai silk by favorite designer Eric Pineda. As svelte as ever Ms Montano, who gave birth recently to Angelina Isabel, glided on stage sans any baubles.

Miriam Quiambao and Eula Valdez, who cohosted the affair with Edu Manzano, must have been promised hefty talent fees or were lucky enough to snag a couple of generous sponsors. The two women slipped into new gowns every station break or so. Barely had Eula warmed up to her hosting job, for instance, when she changed into another outfit soon after making her introduction.

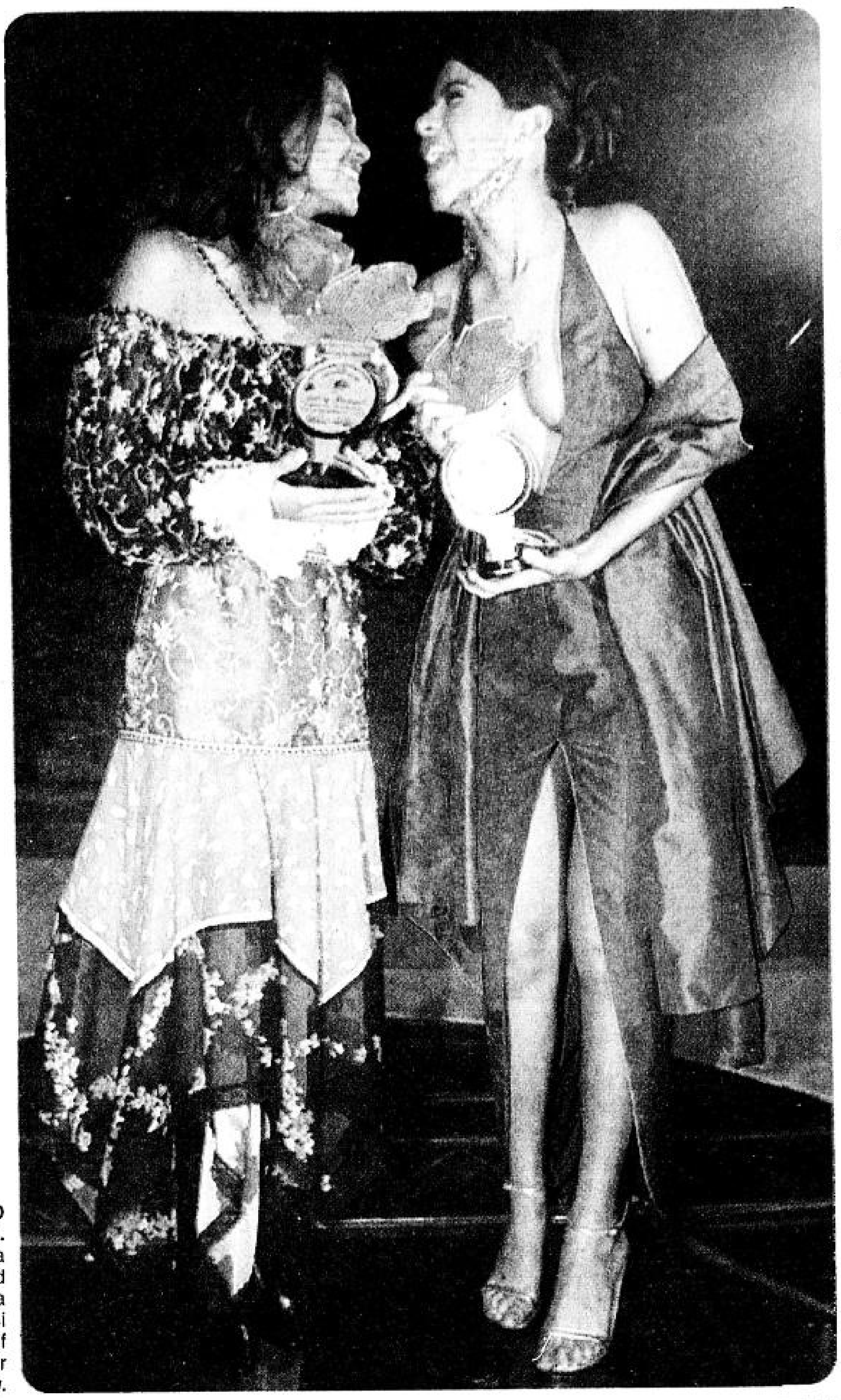
She wore four, count 'em, four gowns within a span of less than three hours, while Miriam had three. Miriam, however, chose to play it safe in Frederick Peralta's tried-and-tested beaded creations (she looked best in a strapless dark number with a beaded skirt), while Eula went offbeat with mixed results.

In an off-shoulder number accented with gold-edged *sinamay*, Eula looked like she ran away with spools of ribbon from a store's gift-wrapping counter. She soon metamorphosed into a giant flower in a perplexing cutout with a huge petal-like collar. After her failed attempts at high fashion, Eula finally hit it right in a simple semi-beaded yellow-green column that flattered her figure.

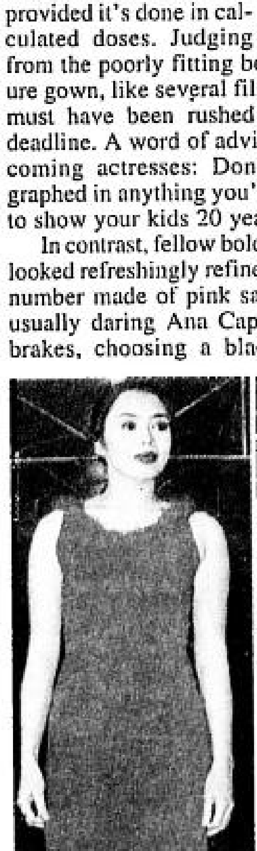
"Bagong Buwan" director Marilou Diaz-Abaya and first-time film producer Margie Moran both came in Muslim-inspired outfits. Moran, a former Miss Universe, looked stunning in a plain, strapless empire-cut gown in aqua that she accented with a swathe of beaded fabric draped on the shoulder. Some women just get better with age.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Even Esmeralda, the Hunchback of Notre Dame's ladylove, wasn't as desperate for attention as Best Supporting Actress winner Alessandra de Rossi

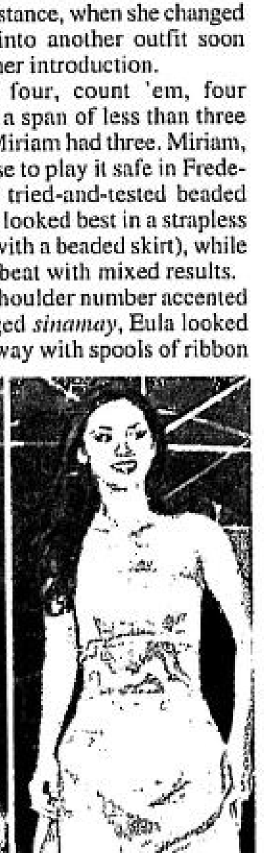


TWISTED SISTERS. Alessandra and Assunta de Rossi show off their *hubog*.

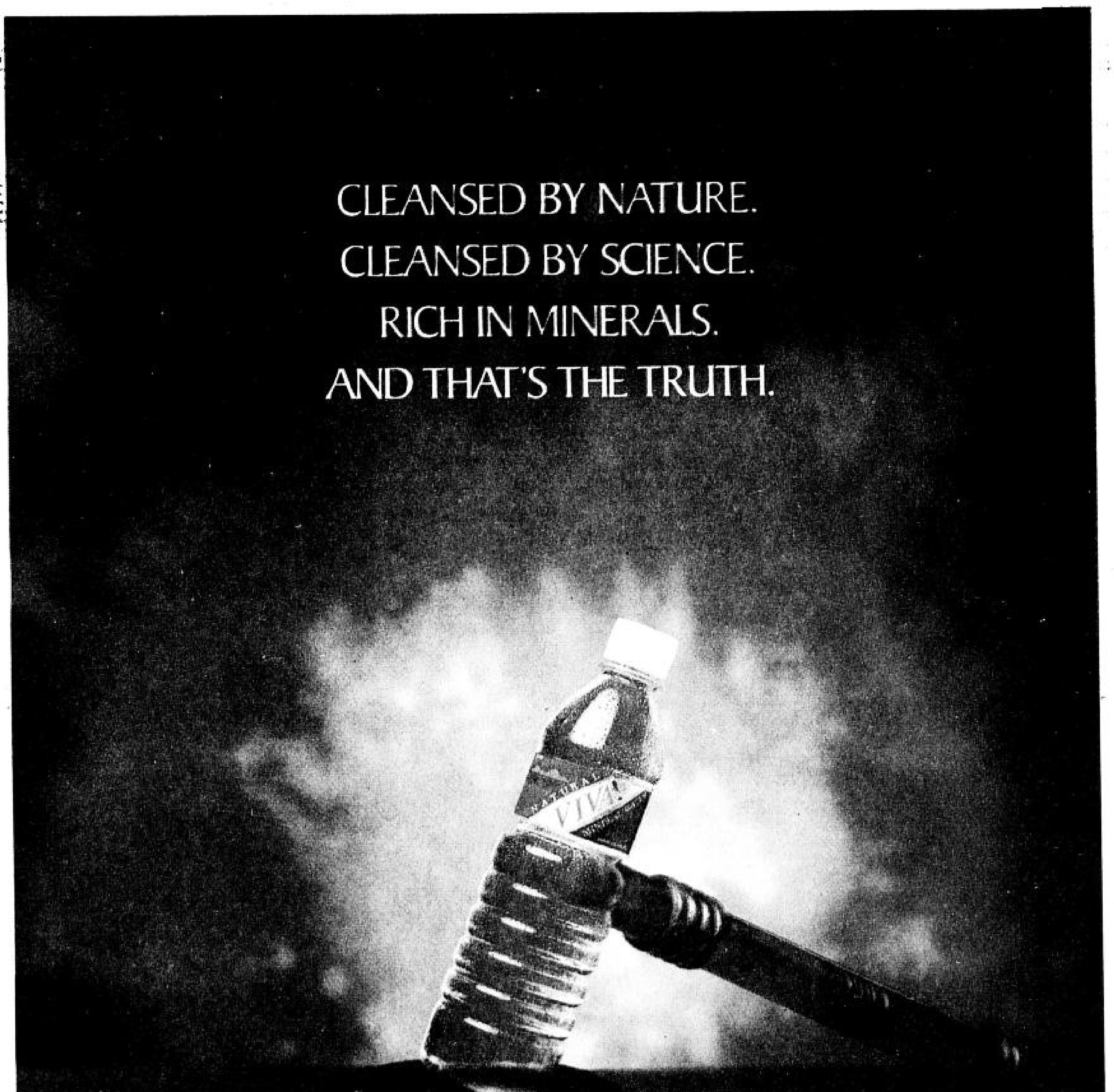


SANTA'S LITTLE HELPER. Angelika de la Cruz goes plain.

MAY DAY EVE. Jolina Magdangal in Santacruzan mode



CHANGED WOMAN. Stella Ruiz gets decent.



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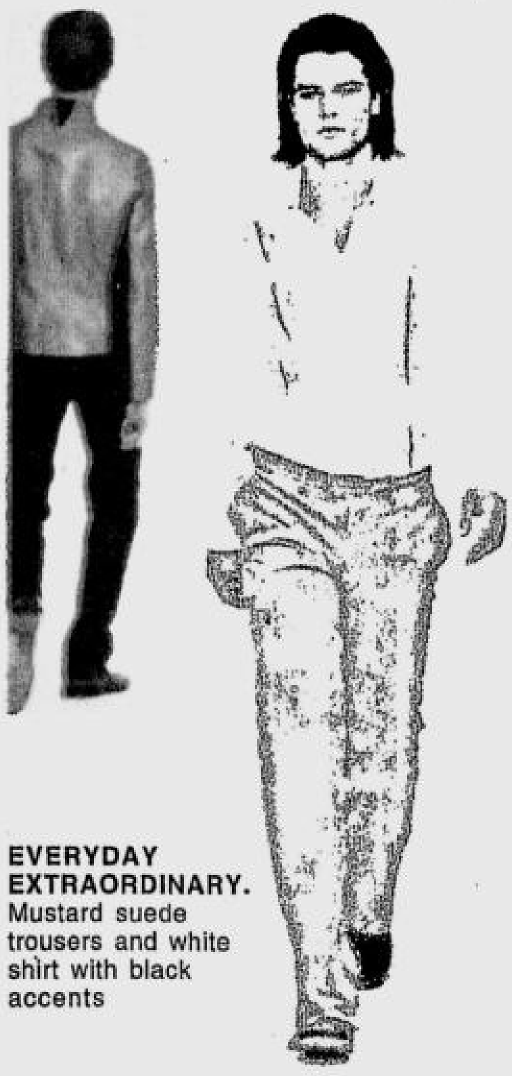
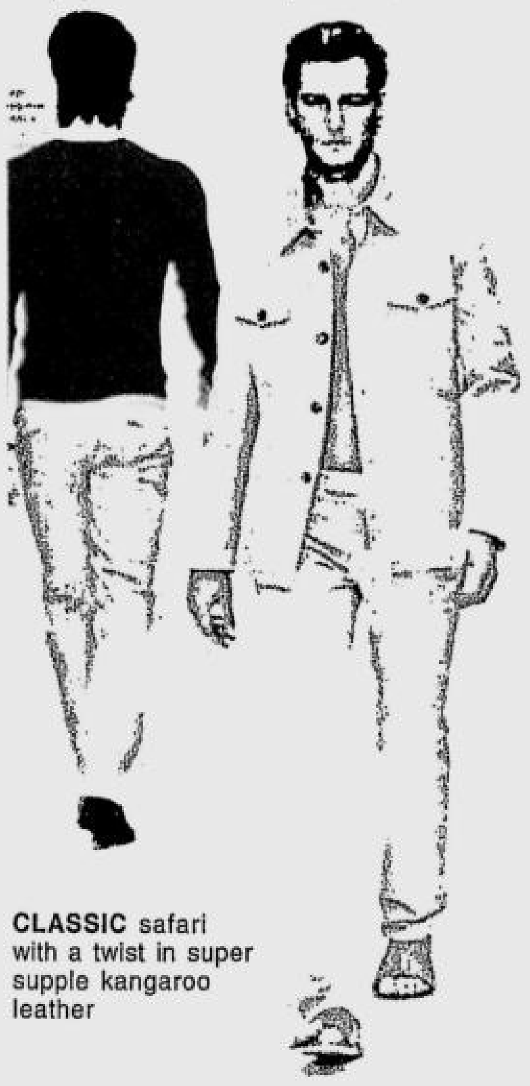


EVERYDAY EXTRAORDINARY. Mustard suede trousers and white shirt with black accents

A **BALLY** store gets a new look in Berlin.



CLASSIC safari with a twist in super supple kangaroo leather

EXCLUSIVE

Jolly good Fellows

Bally high is the target of Scott Fellows, the new miracle worker at the Swiss company that made its international name in handmade shoes

By Kitty Go

THE LAST days of disco were also probably the last days the Bally of Switzerland name was fashionable. Like Gucci, Dior, Givenchy, Balenciaga and of late, Jaeger, the once stodgy, middle-of-the-road label of Bally is getting a fashion makeover.

That responsibility rests on the shoulders of 38-year-old Scott Fellows, a Harvard MBA and Fashion Institute of Technology alumnus with not only the right educational mix for the fashion business but also the work experience and design vision to boot. He was director of worldwide marketing for Ferragamo in his previous life.

Throw in dark, good looks and the gift of gab and you have the next Tom Ford, as the western media have anointed him. Though flattered with the comparison, Fellows stresses, "In terms of brand positioning and message, we couldn't be more different." His title of creative director makes him part manager, part designer, but most of all an image maker and strategist. Fashion business website WGSN.com reports that Bally has been given a $200 million infusion from holding company Texas Pacific Group (TPG) for rebuilding the once prestigious name.

Bally's 150-year-old business got its start in ribbon making. In 1851, Carl Franz Bally went to Paris and came back to Switzerland with handmade shoes for his wife. The shoes gave him the idea to go into shoemaking with the help of local cobblers. Toward the end of the 19th century, Bally expanded into other cities in Europe and certain cities in the Middle East. Franz's son continued the business by taking the Bally name beyond Europe, into Asia, the Americas and most of the Middle East. Bally had over 20 years of success from the start of the 1950s to the end of the '70s, when the company sold to a non-family member for the first time. It has changed ownership four times since 1977. In November 1999, the Texas Pacific Group, a private American equity fund, bought the company and started the revamp with Fellows at the helm. TPG also has ownership in Ducati Motors, Del Monte, Continental Airlines and, as of this writing, is bidding for the Body Shop.

Fellows epitomizes the globe-trotting cosmocrat clientele Bally seeks to capture. His typical work route takes him between a home in New Canaan, Connecticut, a design studio in Manhattan's Tribeca district, Bally corporate offices in Lugano, production facilities in Milan and imaging and visuals in London. The INQUIRER caught up with Fellows in Hong Kong, one of the quick stops between his globe trotting. Excerpts from the one-on-one interview:

Are you planning any new product lines?

Oh, yeah. I think that in terms of product categories that we are not currently doing, it has to be sunglasses or eyeglasses because we're dying to use them. Every time we go on a shoot we're like "I wish we had sunglasses." Also, because the Swiss have such a history with skin care, I'd like to launch a perfume and skin-care line. It's not the easiest thing in the world but I think we can do it. There are some things in skin care that I'd like to do in addition to rolling out perfume.

Where do you do your trend-spotting?

Basically, all over but I think London, in particular, is most inspiring because everybody there is individualistic and you really see crazy things. London tends to be ahead of the curve. So many new designers are coming out of London because they've great fashion schools and in addition to that, it's so much part of the culture to be a little crazy.

So are you and TPG planning to take Bally public?

I think that time will tell what we do with Bally. I think we could take it public. The other option is to take it public and create our own luxury group and buy other companies as part of the group or we could end up selling the company to any one of the other luxury groups.

BALLY advocates eye-catching colors in classic shapes.

Do you think you are on your way to becoming a second Tom Ford? It is rare for someone to have a sense of fashion and style and business acumen.

I think there have been a lot of comparisons like that in lots of editorials. I think the comparison, in the way you described it, is very real because of the way we organize ourselves, the way I'm leading this brand, where everything is under one person. All that is very much the same way Gucci is organized. So when people ask, "Do you like being compared?" I find it extremely flattering because he's incredibly successful. And I have incredible respect for him and the amount of work that it takes to make that happen. If I could be that successful, I'd be very, very happy. We're entirely different in our brand message. So I think from a business point of view we are quite similar but from a brand point of view, we are extremely different.

Who is the Bally customer?

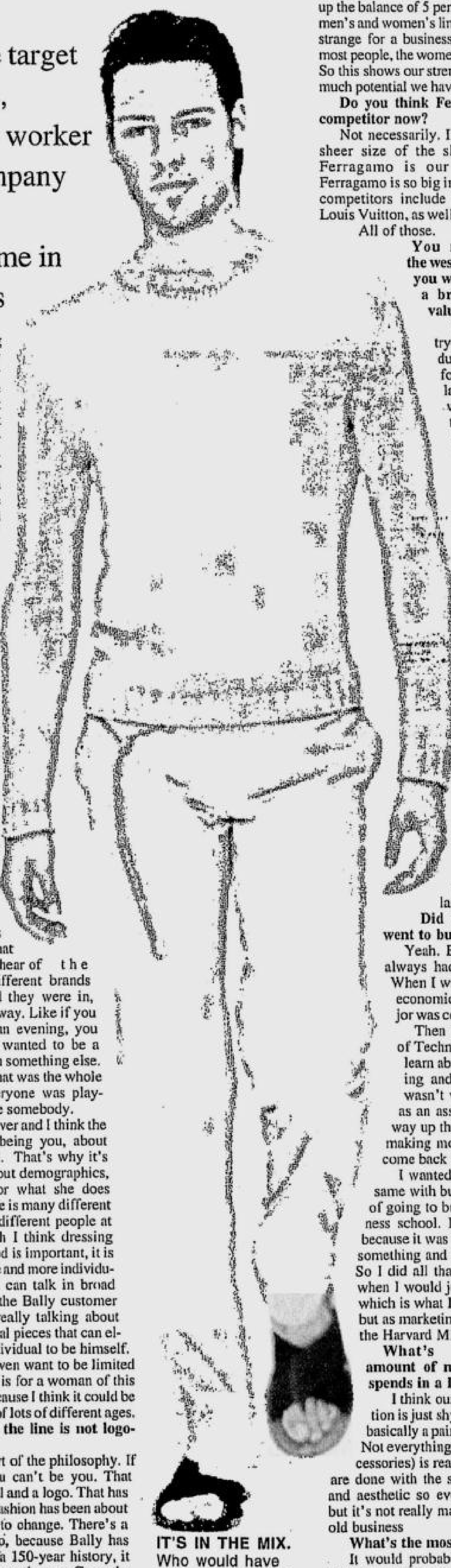
To limit a customer to demographics these days is very difficult. If you look at marketing in the past, in the '80s for example, it was really about demographics. If you said, "This is a woman of 35 and she works at this job and this is where she lives and this is how much she makes...," that was really descriptive and that was enough to get a picture of that woman but I think something happened in the '90s and you went away from the demographics and were more identified with the brands you wore.

It really became the birth of the big brands and you became very much affiliated with the brands. Then in the late '90s it was more the mood. It was what mood you were in. You would hear of the fashion customer shopping different brands but, depending on what mood they were in, they would dress in a different way. Like if you wanted to be a rock star for an evening, you would dress in Gucci. If you wanted to be a dotcom guy, you would dress in something else. Everyone was playing a role. That was the whole idea of being a celebrity. Everyone was play-acting. Everybody wanted to be somebody.

That time in fashion is also over and I think the next thing is about being you, about being an individual. That's why it's difficult to talk about demographics, or what she is, or what she does because I think she is many different people and very different people at once. Although I think dressing for your mood is important, it is getting more and more individualistic. You can talk in broad terms who the Bally customer is but it's really talking about the individual pieces that can elevate an individual to be himself. So I don't even want to be limited by saying it is for a woman of this age, etc. Because I think it could be for women of lots of different ages.

I notice the line is not logo-encrusted.

No. It's part of the philosophy. If it's totally logo-encrusted, you can't be you. That means you'll be carrying a label and a logo. That has been very much a part of what fashion has been about but I really think that's going to change. There's a historical reference to that, too, because Bally has never been about logos. With a 150-year history, it didn't have a mark. It didn't have the two Gs or the double Cs. Bally didn't logo anything so I don't think it's historically brand correct to slap on a logo on everything. I think Bally lasted 150 years and thrived for 150 years and there's no reason today,—because this moment in fashion is about that—that we should do the same with the Bally brand. I think we can take our own course and our own course is a recognizable shape, packed with color, which is also recognizable, and we have lots of things that are recognizable that are not necessarily logo-ed.



IT'S IN THE MIX. Who would have thought pink and mustard would look fab?

Talk me through the revamp. What did you decide to change first?

Because of the calendar and the way fashion development works, we actually didn't have the luxury of doing stuff in stages. It actually had to be done at once because the other problem was that you couldn't change the shapes and didn't have the shoes and bags go together. You couldn't do the shoes and bags and have the RTW look like a different image so it had to be done all at once. We certainly knew what we were doing and the risks we were taking.

Our first true collection was the Autumn/Winter 2000. Right now we're working on AW 02. When we joined the company in September 1999, most of the Spring collection had already been done so we cancelled a lot of it and added bits of newness but everything had already been done. So AW 2000 was the first full collection with my new team.

Did you choose Bally or did they come to you?

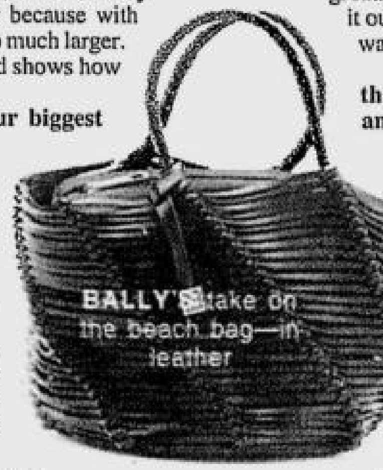
We sort of chose it. I was doing my own business consulting to different brands. TPG got notice that Bally was for sale and because I was a so-called fashion expert, I was asked to join one of the top executives in his first trip to Bally. I admit I was really skeptical. I said, "Oh Bally, it really doesn't have a point of view. It really doesn't mean anything. I don't know if it has that much potential because it is so far gone..." things like that. We went to that first meeting and visited their archives and I got to know the Bally history and I really saw a lot of potential. So by the first meeting, we were already talking about whether this was an interesting company to buy. Before TPG decided to buy the company we did a strategic plan on what we wanted to do with the brand. That was led by me. So even before we owned the company we created this whole vision and the message. Everything was predetermined even before we bought the company. So I was involved from the very beginning and I am really like the father of the whole project.

What's the breakdown of the merchandise?

We used to be more than 70 percent shoes and the bulk of the rest of it accessories and a little bit in ready-to-wear. Now we have 60 percent shoes and accessories are growing at 35 percent then ready-to-wear makes up the balance of 5 percent. It's interesting because our men's and women's lines are split 50-50, which is really strange for a business in our industry because with most people, the women's business is so much larger. So this shows our strength in men's and shows how much potential we have in men's.

Do you think Ferragamo is your biggest competitor now?

Not necessarily. In terms of the sheer size of the shoe business, Ferragamo is our competitor. Ferragamo is so big in shoes but our competitors include Gucci, Prada, Louis Vuitton, as well as Ferragamo. All of those.



BALLY'S take on the beach bag—in leather

You mentioned to the western press than you wanted to create a brand that was value for money.

What we're doing is trying to offer something more enduring. I wouldn't even say value for money. The only thing long lasting is Hermes or Louis Vuitton where they offer something more than one season and are really known for quality. That's what Bally had in the past. They were known for exceptional quality in shoes. And in the last 20 years, it may not have been known for that and that's what we're trying to bring back. I really feel strongly that things have to be priced for what they're really worth.

Like I always say, I don't want to ever do a T-shirt that is priced at $300, which other brands do. I don't think a T-hirt is worth $300 no matter what it's made of. I don't care how beautiful it is, it's not worth it. Not for a T-shirt. And I think what we're trying to do is price things appropriately. Like if it's a leather jacket, you'll spend more money because it's more of an investment. If it's a T-shirt, it's another thing. If it's a men's dress shirt, it's another thing as well. It really depends on the particular item or particular category.

Did you always like fashion but went to business school for the security?

Yeah. Even when I was really little, I always had this huge interest in fashion. When I was at university, I had a major in economics and business and my other major was costume design.

Then I went to FIT (Fashion Institute of Technology) because I also wanted to learn about design. I took courses in sewing and tailoring. At the same time I wasn't willing to tough it out—to work as an assistant somewhere and work my way up the ranks. I was more interested in making money and I sort of knew I would come back to it at the right moment.

I wanted a real university degree and the same with business school. I always dreamed of going to business school and not any business school. I dreamed of going to Harvard because it was the best in the world. It stood for something and it really added to your pedigree. So I did all that knowing that after business is when I would jump into fashion at a high level, which is what I did. I didn't start as an assistant but as marketing director (at Ferragamo). It was the Harvard MBA that did it.

What's the average amount of money a person spends in a Bally store?

I think our average transaction is just shy of $400, which is basically a pair and a half of shoes. Not everything (shoes, bags and accessories) is really matching but they are done with the same colors, materials and aesthetic so everything goes together but it's not really matching. I think that's an old business

What's the most expensive thing?

It would probably be the shearling jacket that is reversible, about $3000-$3500.

Are you planning to have any celebrities wear your clothes, like in "Sex and the City"?

Because we're not about celebrity, we don't really promote it. But there are a lot of celebrities who wear Bally. We had used the Free sneaker as a giveaway in the Oscar basket so a lot of celebrities have claimed the gift certificate. But we've also had lots of celebrities buy that shoe. Michael Douglas was seen wearing that at the Grand Prix, Ewan McGregor...We're not actively searching them out because we don't really have things to wear to premiers and we never will. It's not something we're interested in. If they buy and wear it, great. But we're not actively searching it out. Catherine Deneuve's daughter was at one of the stores.

Do you have a strategy now that business is slowing down and did you think your business was going to be affected anyway with or without 9-11?

Yeah, well, you saw that the global luxury business was experiencing an economic downturn anyway and with 9-11, it stopped the travel business. The Japanese customer stopped traveling altogether. The airport retail business, whether duty-free or not, saw a huge drop in traffic. It has affected our business because so much of our business is related to travel and it's true for every luxury business, too. Most of the business is driven when the customer is on vacation or traveling, specially the Asian customer traveling to Europe or the US. So that it certainly has had an effect.

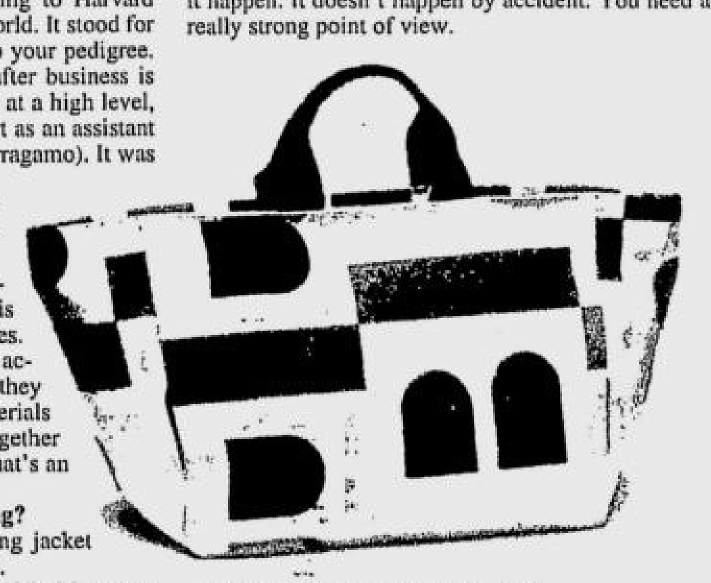
Having said that, I think the effects of 9-11 have gone a long way to change the attitude about fashion and one thing about fashion is that it always changes and when there are significant world events it makes those changes happen even faster. And I think what has happened is that the recent vulgarity and sexuality of fashion now really looks wrong. I think what people really want, and they are reporting this in the American magazines, is a return to simplicity, to classic things. But not dull and boring like the early '90s. Everybody has gone through that uniform way of dressing and no one wants black or gray or white. They want things that are full of color and that's exactly what we've been offering. And that has been our message for the last two years. So I think in some ways, and because we're more value priced in terms of luxury positioning, if people cut back, they're really going to look at the quality and not just buy something just for the name, but because of the quality and the detail. It makes our message even more relevant now.

Do you think that this change in fashion would have happened without 9-11, anyway?

Yes, yes... That was my gut-feel even two years ago. Bally was based on not just the past but what we thought was going to be modern. Over two years ago, when we were just looking at the brand, we saw that fashion with celebrity was going to wane; that the obsession with mood marketing and rock star was going to wane...The trendiest people in fashion and editorials were already turning away from that heavy, vulgar imagery that you see in fashion advertising and magazines. The trendier magazines were ahead of the curve and we were advocating something softer, something more optimistic, something more real and quiet and we were in the forefront of that and that is where the imagery is going now.

Is there anyone—designer or businessman—you look up to?

Tom Ford is certainly someone I look up to and I really admire what he's done; or any visionary leader who has done well in a different milieu who is extremely focused like Steve Jobs of Apple. A certain magic happens at a certain time. When these kinds of amazing projects happen, there is (a) a visionary leader and (b) there is a team of people behind that leader who makes it happen. Gucci has that now, Apple has that, Nike has that, Walt Disney under Walt had that. You need a strong, dynamic leader with a team who makes it happen. It doesn't happen by accident. You need a really strong point of view.



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for the Conservation of Priority Protected Areas Program (CPPAP), a GEF/World Bank funded conservation project.

Interested party must submit a letter application with bio-data on or before January 15, 2002 at CPPAP-PCU, Ninoy Aquino Nature Center, Diliman, Quezon City or at **cppappcu@mozcom.com**. The telephone numbers are 9296214 or 9253426.

An attractive salary package awaits the qualified applicant. The applicant must possess significant experience in the procurement of goods and services. Civil engineering graduate is preferable although experience will be given serious consideration.

Address the letter application to the NIPA Program Manager.

MANAGERIAL

FPDsavills

INTERNATIONAL PROPERTY CONSULTANTS

FPDSavills is the trading name for the property services subsidiaries of Savills plc, which provides a wide range of high-quality, comprehensive, property-related services to developers, owners, tenants and investors across all key segments of commercial, industrial, residential, retail and hotel properties. FPDSavills' strategic alliance with a top US full service real estate advisor Trammell Crow Company means that clients have access to a network of offices in the US and Canada. **FPDSavills has a global network comprising of 244 offices in more than 20 countries.**

Defying market trends in the year 2001, FPDSavills Manila has expanded its business and concluded 64,000 sq.m. of office and residential transactions and sold Php 600 Million worth of property.

We are seeking qualified, experienced staff to fulfill the following key positions for our expansion:

COMMERCIAL AND RESIDENTIAL NEGOTIATORS

Duties will involve:

- Providing property consultancy services
- Handling real estate requirements of multi-national corporations
- Negotiating sales / leases
- Managing property database
- Telemarketing
- Networking/socializing

Ideal candidates must be:

- Male/Female graduate of a 4-year course, preferably in business, marketing, communications, or entrepreneurial management
- 2 years sales & marketing experience, preferably in but not limited to, the property or real estate industry
- Proficient in MS Office applications such as Word, Excel, Powerpoint
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- With highly professional work ethics
- Assertive and self-motivated
- Diligent & dedicated
- Team player
- Ambitious & gearing for fast-paced career advancement

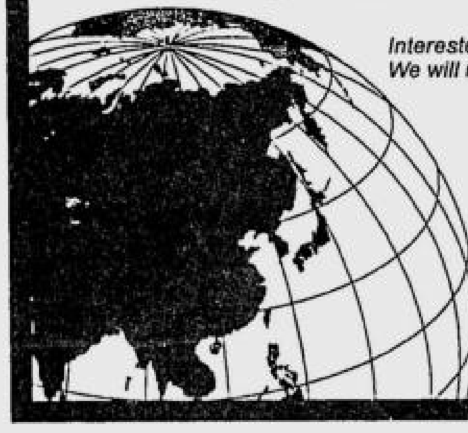
RESEARCH ANALYSTS

Duties will involve:

- Gathering, processing and analyzing of property information
- Updating FPDSavills' Research database
- Preparing and distributing FPDSavills' regular Philippine property market studies, reports, briefings, publications and press releases
- Preparing market research and related technical/financial proposals

Ideal candidates must be:

- Male/Female
- College degree holder in Economics, Mathematics and/or Statistics
- 3-5 years preferred working experience
- Proficient in technical writing, excellent oral and written communication skills
- Highly adept in MS Office applications such as Word, Excel and PowerPoint



Interested candidates must send their resume, transcript of records and 2 x 2 photo not later than February 15, 2002. We will respond only to short listed candidates and those residing in Metro Manila.

Human Resources Department
FPDSavills Philippines Inc.
37th Floor, Philamlife Tower
8767 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
Tel. No.: 885 0580 / Fax No. 885 0577 or 78
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(for PC, Consumer products, Networking products)

Successful candidates shall be tasked to provide overall product management for their respective product lines. This shall involve the conceptualization of effective advertising and/or promotional campaigns, sound management and control over advertising/marketing budgets, inventory forecasting, pricing strategies and other marketing initiatives aimed at creating product awareness and in attaining profit goals. Candidates should be imbued with excellent communication and people-handling skills, Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates, possessing technical backgrounds in computer technology, with at least 2 years experience as a marketing professional obtained from reputable IT firms.

CHANNEL/SALES OFFICERS

The Channel/Sales Officers shall be tasked to engage in sales of IT products. Their activities shall involve maintaining the productivity of the sales channels, developing prospective clients and establishing a strong appeal for products and services. Desired candidates should be goal-oriented, possessing excellent interpersonal and negotiation skills, Marketing, Engineering or Business course graduates, preferably with at least 1 year IT sales experience. However, fresh graduates with strong inclinations toward a career in sales are welcome to apply.

PRODUCT ENGINEER

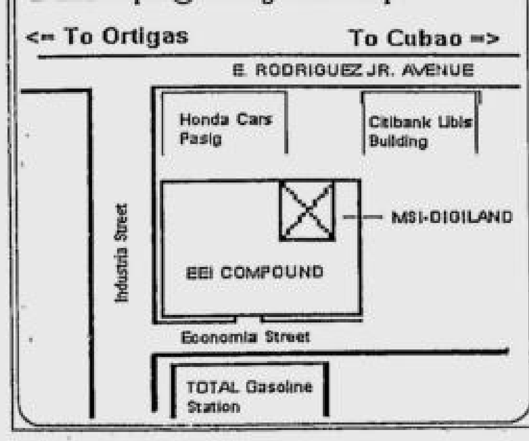
The Product Engineer shall provide both pre- and post-sale technical support for his/her assigned product line. This shall involve product evaluation/testing, consultancy, product demonstration/presentation and technical training. Successful candidate should possess a technical background in Windows NT, MS Office, Lotus Notes, LINUX. Should be an ECE or Computer Engineering graduate, imbued with excellent communication skills, customer-oriented, with at least 1 year related experience.

HR ASSISTANT

Activities shall focus mainly on recruitment and selection, job evaluation and performance management. Successful applicant should be an AB/BS Psychology or Behavioral Science graduate with at least 1 year experience in the same capacity. Background in the planning and execution of behavioral training is an advantage. Should be imbued with excellent communication skills, highly confident and computer literate.

Interested parties may submit their letter of application and comprehensive resume' with 2x2 colored photo to.

THE HR MANAGER
MSI-Digiland (Phils.), Inc.
Topy II Building, 3 Economia Street
Libis, Quezon City
Fax: (02) 638-4938
E-mail: dphr@msi-digiland.com.ph



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Code : AA

With experience in general accounting, collections and receivables. Proficient in MS Word and Excel. Willing to render Overtime work.

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Code : TCA

College graduate, Female. Not over 30 years old with at least 1 year related experience. She must have good oral communication skills and can handle selling and collection of ad spaces through the telephone.

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Code : DS

Qualified candidate must be single, college graduate, computer literate (MS Word, MS Excel, & Powerpoint) and could type at a speed not less than 40 words per minute.

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7 Flr. Salamin Bldg., Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City
E-mail: besttel3@broline.com

MANAGERIAL

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- Graduates of BSHRM or related courses; Marketing background preferred but not necessary;
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MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- Male/Female, at least 23 years old; good in oral and written communication;
- Preferably graduates of BSHRM, BSBA, BSC or related courses;
- Computer literate (Excel, Powerpoint, Word).

DINING SUPERVISORS
- Male/Female, preferably not more than 30 years old;
- College graduates, at least 5'6" with pleasing personality;
- With at least 2 years of work experience in a hotel or restaurant;
- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint).

KITCHEN SUPERVISORS
- Male/Female, preferably not more than 30 years old; has skill in report writing;
- BS Food Technology/Nutrition graduates with at least three years of experience in restaurant/food industry;
- Computer literate (Word, Excel, Powerpoint)

BANQUET AND SALES COORDINATORS
- Male/Female, 20 to 25 years old;
- College graduates, preferably of HRM, Tourism, PR, Business Administration / Mass Communica-tion, Marketing, and other related courses;
- Must have a pleasant personality and above average English communication skills.

KITCHEN O.I.C.'s
- Male/Female, at least 25 years old;
- Preferably graduates of BS Food and Nutrition, HRM or other related courses;
- Have at least 1 year working experience in the same capacity;
- Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

BOOKKEEPERS
- College graduates with 12 units in Accounting;
- Have experience in restaurant setting.

MASTER COOKS
- Preferably male, at least 25 years old;
- Have formal or vocational training in cooking;
- Have 3-5 years working;
- Have knowledge in menu planning, food costing and inventory management.

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS
- Male/Female, 18-25 years old;
- At least college level/vocational course graduates, 5'3" in height;
- Must have a pleasant personality and good English communication skills.

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- Male, must have reached at least 2nd year college/vocational courses, 5'6" in height with good physique, pleasant personality and good communication skills;
- Preferably not more than 25 years old;
- For Riders, must have professional driver's license (restriction codes 1 & 2).

KITCHEN HELPERS
- Male, 18 to 25 years old;
- At least college level/vocational course;
- Must have a pleasant personality;
- Preferably with related work experiences.

JANITORS/DISHWASHERS
- Male, 18 to 27 years old;
- At least college level/vocational course;
- Must have a pleasant personality.

You may submit/mail your resumé with 2x2 photo and transcript of records at the branch nearest you or where you prefer to work, or at any of our Recruitment Centers:

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MAX'S TRAINING CENTER
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Human Resources Department
MAX'S GREENBELT BRANCH
Greenbelt Park, Ayala Center
Makati City

Human Resources Department
Max's Quezon City Group
3rd Floor, 89 FSS Building,
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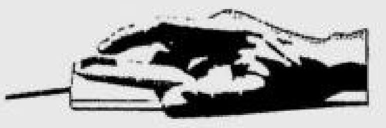

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The following qualifications are a requirement:
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Send requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box # 14233
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Emeral Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605

You may also e-mail requirements to personnel@msocorporation.com

Applicants under consideration will be contacted for an interview by telephone.

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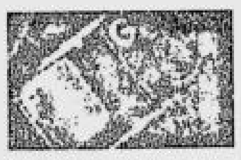

Please send your current CV with 1x1 colored picture to:
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Suite 1802A 18/F East Tower P.S.E.C. Bldg.
Exchange Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
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Gammon House, 110 Rada St.,
Legaspi Village, Makati City

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☐ Possesses excellent oral and written communication skills;
☐ Excellent interpersonal skills;
☐ Proficient in computer applications particularly in MS Office, PowerPoint and other Windows-based application;
☐ Able to work under pressure and with minimum supervision;
☐ Assertive, aggressive, hardworking, resourceful, persistent and goal-oriented;
☐ Preferably a resident of the above area or with strong familiarity with the geographic location of these areas;
☐ Willing to be assigned to any Sony branch nationwide;
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The Human Resources Department
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Sony Philippines, Inc.
26th Floor Tower I, The Enterprise Center
6766 Ayala Avenue corner Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
or
E-mail your resumé to enealega@sony.com.ph (no attachments please)

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- License Electrical Engineer
- With at least 2 years experience on the same field
- Must be capable in doing preventive maintenance for genset, aircon, forklift, LPG & electrical equipment
- Computer literate and can work with minimum supervision

COMPANY NURSE

- Male or female, 24 to 30 years old
- P.R.C. License - Registered Nurse
- With at least 1 year experience in a manufacturing company
- Computer literate and willing to render overtime
- Knowledgeable in processing/filing documents to government/medical agencies.

Interested party are advised to apply in person with their updated resumé, 2x2 photo, and transcript of records to:

ENKEI PHILS. INC.
104 Industry Drive, Carmelray Industrial Park,
Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna
(049) 549-0161-62
or
e-mail us at **maylen.garcia@enkei.com.ph**

Jardine Davies

A REAL CAREER OPPORTUNITY

Jardine Davies has an enviable reputation for supplying and installing a range of quality products for a large number of high profile clients throughout the Philippines.

On the back of our well earned reputation, we are experiencing growth in business and now wish to strengthen our team through the appointment of a

SENIOR SALES MANAGER

(AVP Designate)

Industrial Products

The successful applicant will report to the General Manager and will have 'bottom line' responsibility for managing and growing a major group of our Industrial Products business, which include Refractories, Waterproofing and Industrial Floorings.

The appointee will be responsible for a full team of sales engineers and experienced technical specialists as well as proven installation teams. He or she will of course work very closely with our overseas Principals and will have full product development responsibilities.

Applicants must have a successful track-record in industrial product sales management, preferably in large project type sales. Applicants must have experience of negotiating at very senior levels and have a sound grasp of consultative and value-added selling techniques. Previous experience with a multinational company is desirable.

Proven business acumen, excellent communication and interpersonal skills and computer literacy are all basic requirements. Although not essential, preference will be given to applicants with a strong engineering background.

This is a senior career position with excellent opportunities for progression to an AVP position within the Jardine Group. Jardines is committed to management development and structured training (both local and overseas). Salary and benefits packages are very competitive.

Please send your resume by post, fax or e-mail to:

Ms. Nanette Poblador
Jardine Davies
222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue
Makati City
Fax No. 844-7022
E-mail: HRD@jdigroup.com

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted. Previous applicants need not apply.

Jardine Davies is a member of the Jardine Matheson Group.

We are a ground handling and logistics company.
We are looking for qualified personnel for the positions listed below.
Central and Northern Luzon residents are preferred.

CHIEF ACCOUNTANT

Candidates must be Certified Public Accountants; with at least 5 years experience. Must be computer-literate.

CARGO SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 8 years experience in air cargo handling and warehouse operations management. Must be computer literate.

MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 6 years experience in Ground Support Equipment preventive maintenance, inspection and repair; and must have a valid Driver's License.

RAMP SUPERVISOR

Candidates must have a College degree; with at least 6 years experience in aircraft ramp handling and a valid Driver's License.

MECHANIC

Candidates must be graduates of a Technical/Vocational course; with at least 5 years experience in Ground Support Equipment preventive maintenance, inspection and repair, and must have a Driver's License.

NON-TECHNICAL MECHANIC

Candidates must be High School graduates preferably with at least two years of Vocational education; with at least 2 years experience in general equipment maintenance, inspection and repair; and must have a valid Driver's License.

RAMP PERSONNEL

Candidates must be High School graduates preferably with at least two years of Vocational education; with at least 2 years experience in aircraft ramp handling; and must have a valid Driver's License.

DOCUMENTATION CLERK

Candidates must have a College degree. Previous experience in customs clearance documentation is preferable. Must be computer literate.

WAREHOUSEMAN

Candidates must have completed at least two years of High School or Vocational education; with at least 5 years experience in warehouse operations and air cargo handling.

FORKLIFT OPERATOR

Candidates must be licensed forklift operator with at least 5 years experience in forklift operations.

All candidates must have good communication and interpersonal skills.

Competitive compensation packages and training programs await successful candidates.

Interested applicants are requested to send their comprehensive resumés with 2 recent ID photos on or before January 15, 2002 to:

P.O. Box KA-012-01 TD
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Trinity Building
636 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila

Please include copies of certificates and licenses where applicable.

International Service Company wants

ACCOUNTANTS

- Ten (10) positions to be filled;
- 25 years old and below;
- New Graduates preferred;
- CPA passers only;
- Very competitive salary;
- Very good career opportunities;
- Female candidates only;
- New building office, (Ortigas Center);
- Willing to work long hours when necessary;

Requirements for all positions: *Resumé, transcript of records, copy of CPA Licensure Exam Result (if applicable), 2x2 photo, Contact address and phone number (your e-mail address if applicable), a copy of your most recent payslip, a cut out copy of this ad.*

Send requirements to:

The Personnel Officer, P.O. Box # 14233
Ortigas Center Post Office
Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City 1605
You may also e-mail requirements to personnel@msocorporation.com

MANAGERIAL

A leading Printing & Publishing Company urgently requires

1. TELEPHONE OPERATORS - (5)

Excellent knowledge of English language and computer operations. Good telephone manners. Age below 25 years.

2. SALES EXECUTIVES (M/F) - (6)

Candidate should be a presentable, smart young graduate with an outgoing personality and flair for sales, proficient in written and spoken English. And should have a minimum experience of 3 years in a Printing Press or Advertising Agency in a similar capacity. Past experience in space selling will be an advantage. Age below 25 years.

3. PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR - (1)

Should have a Degree or Diploma in Printing Technology, a minimum experience of 6 years in a large Printing Press and be well exposed to all printing and finishing processes, scheduling, supervising and quality control. Well organized, the candidate should be able to handle day-to-day operations of a large Printing Press. Age below 30 years.

4. COMPUTER GRAPHIC DESIGNERS - (3)

With a Degree or Diploma in Commercial Art, the candidate should be Macintosh savvy, proficient in latest designing & publishing softwares and have a distinct flair for designing. Experience in designing and pre-press operations, colour separations, scanning, image manipulation and retouching is necessary.

5. SCANNER OPERATOR - (1)

Should have at least a Diploma in Printing Technology or equivalent, wide working experience on high-end drum & flatbed scanners and be proficient in pre-press operations like scanning, image manipulation, retouching etc.

Post no. 4 & 5 should have minimum of 5 years experience in a similar post at the large commercial Printing Press / Advertising Agency. Age below 28 years.

6. MECHANICAL/ELECTRICAL ENGINEER - (1)

Should be a Degree/Diploma holder in Mechanical/Electrical Engineering. Thorough knowledge of repairing/maintaining Japanese and German offset machines and finishing equipment is a must. Minimum experience of 5 years is necessary.

7. FOUR/FIVE COLOUR SHEETFED OFFSET PRINTERS - (2)

8. WEB OFFSET PRINTERS - (2)

Sheetfed printers should have a Diploma/ITI Certificate in Printing Technology and be well experienced in process and special colour printing. Web Offset Printer should have experience in Newspaper and bookwork printing as well as thorough knowledge of colour. A minimum of 4 years experience in a similar post at a large Printing Press is essential. Age below 30 years.

9. BOOK BINDERS - (5)

Should have a Diploma/ITI Course in Printing Technology and be manually skilled. Well experienced in quality binding and finishing work, the candidate should be able to handle modern binding machinery as well as manual work. A minimum of 3 years of experience is essential. Age below 30 years.

Please apply with detailed bio-data along with qualification and experience certificates, a copy of the passport and 2 photographs and have a chance to be trained abroad.

Send to:

CHAT BONIFACIO
W-908, 9th Floor, West Tower
Stock Exchange Centre
Ortigas Avenue, Pasig City 1605

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abc store
Incorporated

"Sending the Right Message."

We need new Blood!!! Good ones!!!

STORE MANAGER

Male/Female, 26-35 years of age, Graduate of any business related course, Marketing or Communications from any reputable school. Has excellent communication and leadership skills. At least 1-2 years sales experience and established network of contacts.

CASHIER

Female, ages 20 -30 years old. Graduate of any business course from a reputable school. Pleasant looking with good interpersonal and communication skills.

SALES ASSOCIATE

Male/female, ages 20-30 years old. at least college level, with 6 months experience in sales and marketing. Computer know-how on both software and hardware is an advantage. Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila. Willing to start immediately

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN

Preferably male, ages 22-30 years old, a graduate of computer science or its equivalent. Highly adept in computer troubleshooting (Hardware and Software), has at least 1 or 2 years of relevant experience.

HR ASSISTANT

Female, ages 25-30 years old. Graduate of Psychology or any behavorial science course from any reputable school. Good interpersonal skills. Computer literate. Has at least 1 yr experience with employee relations, compensation and benefits, recruitment, payroll and familiar with labor laws.

ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

Preferably female, 20-28 years old. Graduate of any course from a reputable school. Excellent marketing skills, has wide network of contacts, can work well under pressure. Pleasing personality and good communication skills.

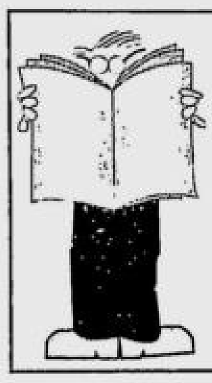
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

Preferably female, 20-28 years old. College level. Computer literate. Able to do multitasking. Strong organizational skills. Min. 1 yr experience in administrative, secretarial and other related functions.

Interested applicants may submit in their resumes to:

THE HUMAN RESOURCES
ABC STORE INCORPORATED
622 JTIC Building, Shaw Boulevard corner
Samat Street, Mandaluyong City

or you may apply personally at the above address and look for Jenny or Roni 532-4367 local 108



The best companies need the best people.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
JOBMarket
ONLINE

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

TOYOTA

DO YOU WANT TO BE PART OF A DEALER OF CHOICE?.... then here's the one you're waiting for!

We are in search of Top Caliber Team members to fill in our Job Vacancies

IN HOUSE INSTRUCTOR

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'7" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- must have at least 2 years experience as a trainor
- with driver's license (professional)
- with supervisory work experience
- with 2 years experience in automotive workshop operations
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

RECEPTION HEAD TRAINEE

- male, not more than 30 years old, at least 5'8" in height
- preferably a degree holder of BS in Mechanical Engineering
- preferably with 2 years automotive experience in a frontline position
- with experience in auto repairs and maintenance
- with professional driver's license
- with excellent oral and written communication skills
- computer literate

FIELD MARKETING PROFESSIONALS

- male, not more than 30 years old
- minimum height requirement 5'4"
- college graduate of any four year course
- driving skills is an advantage

WAREHOUSEMEN

- college level, male, not more than 28 years old
- knowledge on spare parts would be an advantage
- at least 5'7" in height with Professional Driver's License
- with at least 2 years experience as stock/storage clerk

....So don't miss this kind of opportunity! Interested applicants may apply and send their resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photograph at:

TOYOTA SHAW, INC. (TSI)
HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE
411 Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City

NOTE: PREVIOUS APPLICANT NEED NOT APPLY.

Do you have a

CAREER URGE?

We're offering more than a job...
we are promising an exciting and rewarding career.

Store Operations Manager

- Graduate of 4-year course in HRM, Business Administration, Management and other related courses
- With high level of supervisory competency in managing several Food Outlets and conducting in-house store audit
- At least 3 years work experience in the food industry

Store Supervisor

- Graduate of 4-year course in HRM, Business Administration, Management and other related courses
- With high level of supervisory competency in managing an outlet and conducting in-house store training
- 1 to 2 years experience in any food outlet is an advantage.

HR Personnel

- Graduate of 4-year course in Psychology and Human Relations
- Male or Female; with pleasing personality
- With excellent organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be familiar with MS Office, and the likes
- At least 2 years working experience in Human Resources
- Can conduct and evaluate Psychological/Personality/IQ Tests

Marketing Assistant

- Graduate of any marketing related course
- Female, 21-25 years old and with pleasing personality
- With excellent organizational and interpersonal skills
- Must be familiar with MS Office, graphics and the like
- Fresh graduates are welcome

Rider

- Male, 18-25 years old
- With valid Driver's license
- At least College level; Possesses good communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

Store Crew

- Male Female, 18-25 years old
- At least College level; Possesses good communication skills
- Willing to work on shifting schedules

Baker

- Minimum 2 years working experience in Hotel/Restaurant/Bakery
- Male/Female; 20-25 years old
- At least College level, willing to work on shifting schedules

We can promise that we satisfy your CAREER URGE?

You may submit comprehensive resumé to:

THE HRD DEPARTMENT
Units 2&3 V&O Bldg.
Don Bosco Street, Pasong Tamo, Makati City
Tel. No. 812-1514 / 812-1782
January 9, 2002 (deadline of submission)

FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS (PART TIME ONLY)

- College level
- Female, age 18-22 years old
- Good looking and has fair,clear complexion
- Has good oral communication skills
- With pleasing personality, energetic and enthusiastic
- Honest and responsible
- Willing to be assigned in supermarkets and malls during weekends (Fri.,Sat.,Sun.)
- Can work with minimum supervision

FIELD SUPERVISORS (PART TIME & FULL TIME)

- College graduate
- Female, age 23-30 years old
- Has good oral and written communication skills (English & Tagalog)
- Willing to do field work in Metro Manila and provinces
- W/ pleasing personality, authoritative,responsible
- With good moral character
- With excellent leadership skills

PROJECT OFFICERS (FULL TIME)

- College grad.,pref. with background in mktg. And advtsg.
- Male/Female, age 21-25 years old
- Young, dynamic, career driven
- Has excellent oral and written comm. skills
- W/ pleasing personality,authoritative,responsible
- Willing to work long hours
- With good moral character
- Team leader

Please send resume or bio-data with 2X2 I.D. picture or apply in person at
5th P Advertising Services
78 Matahimik St. Teacher's Village Quezon City

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inSync
INSTITUTIONAL SYNERGY, INC.

EXECUTIVE SEARCH SERVICES

Our client, the world's leading producer of geosynthetics for Civil and Environmental Engineering is currently expanding its business and distributor network in the Philippines. We invite top-caliber candidates for the position of:

COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVE/ TECHNICAL MARKETING ENGINEER

THE JOB: The successful candidate will be responsible for managing the Company's sales and marketing distribution network in the Philippines. The position requires providing support to distributors, market development, and liaising with local authorities, universities and research institutes. Based in Makati, he will report directly to the Regional Manager and will be closely involved in all key business decisions relating to the Philippines.

THE REQUIREMENTS:

- A Licensed Civil Engineer, preferably male, 27 to 32 years old
- With at least 5 years of work experience in a design or contracting environment, or proven track record in marketing and sales of constuction materials
- Fluency in oral and written English, and excellent interpersonal skills
- Proven administrative and organizational skills
- Flexibility and openness to new ideas, ability to work independently and efficiently
- Trustworthiness, maturity and high sense of responsibility

The company offers a very competitive compensation and benefits package, including opportunities for international training. Qualified applicants are invited to send their resumés with contact numbers, current and expected pay, and a recent photograph to e-mail address: isi@insync.com.ph or to **Institutional Synergy, Inc., Unit 608, 6/F Taipan Place Building, Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City** (We will reply only to those considered for interview.)

Philippine Economic Zone Authority
Block 23 Phase IV, Rosario, Cavite

If you're a dynamic, hardworking individual and possess the qualifications we are looking for, then apply now... and be part of one of the largest wood manufacturing companies in Asia.

Assistant Manager for Training and Recruitment

- Male/Female
- Must be 35 years old and above
- Graduate of Management or Psychology preferably with Masters Degree in Industrial Relations
- With at least (3) three years of experience in all phases of Human Resource Management and Training, preferably exposed in manufacturing company with over 1,000 employees is an advantage

Assistant Supervisors (for production and maintenance)

- Male/Female at least 20-30 years old
- Graduate of any Engineering course
- With at least 6 months related supervisory work experience
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive
- With knowledge in machine operation for wooden product

Purchasing Staff

- Male/Female between 21-27 years old
- Graduate of any four-year business course preferably BSBA major in Marketing
- With at least 6 months experience in purchasing
- People oriented and can work on extended hours

Recruitment Staff

- Male or female between 21 to 27 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Psychology
- With 6 months experience in administering psychological exam preferably in industrial setting
- Must be computer literate
- Can interpret psychological exam
- People oriented and can work on extended hours
- Aggressive, analytical and assertive

PRODUCTION BASED

Forklift Operator (urgent hiring)

- At least High School, Vocational or College Level
- Must be Male 20-27 years old
- With 6 months experience in forklift operation
- With Professional Driver's License
- Good moral character

Mechanic

- Male 20-27 years old
- Must be Vocational or College Graduate (Automotive)
- With at least 6 months experience as mechanic
- Knowledge in machine trouble shooting
- Familiar with compressors

Electrician

- Male 20-27 years old
- Vocational or College Graduate (I.T./Electrical Course)
- At least 6 months experience as electrician
- Knowledge in AVR control
- Can read electrical diagram symbol

Facility Staff

- Male between 20-27 years old
- At least high school graduate or college level
- With knowledge and skills in carpentry, plumbing, planning and scheduling
- Physically well built and able body
- With good moral character

You can mail or hand-carry your comprehensive resumé with 2x2 picture and transcript of records at the above address. For inquiries, call Telephone No. (046) 437-2486 or 437-0849. Look for Christian or Ahmee or you can email your resumé at hrd_scad@yahoo.com

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WANTED IMMEDIATELY

NO KA OI (PHILS) INT'L., INC.

a pest control company based in Ayala Alabang is in need of:

OPERATIONS MANAGER

- graduate of any four-year course preferably in Sciences or Management
- with strong leadership and can manage to supervise about 30 technicians
- can work under pressure without supervision
- with good P.R.
- willing to work on day and night shift
- computer literate
- experience in a related position is an advantage
- valid driver's license

Qualified applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé to:

The Personnel Dept.
Eastern Shipping Lines, Inc.
ESL Bldg., Bonifacio Drive,
Anda Circle, Port Area, 1002 Manila
Fax No. 527-3006
E-mail address: eastship@skynet.net

MANAGERIAL/TECHNICAL

The WOMEN'S HEALTH AND SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT- PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT, a Programme of the Department of Health with funding support from the European Union (EU) and the Government of the Philippines (GOP), which aims to strengthen women's health at the community level, is urgently in need of:

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT II

The admin assistant is assigned to the Community Development Section of the Project Management Unit (PMU) and will assist in the implementation of the Project's National Level Community Development (CD) Activities. Duties include provision of assistance with communication and coordination with Regional CD Units on CD related activities, organizing meetings, conferences and networking activities. Coordinating the collection of data and reports, communications, proceedings, training modules and hand-outs, CD reference materials and other data coming from and to the RPMUs and other network. Position is also responsible for maintenance of the CD Section's filing system.

Candidates must have:

- ☐ a relevant Bachelor's degree with at least 2 years related experience in community development work/working with NGOs.
- ☐ Knowledge of administrative systems and procedures, and be computer literate.

Successful candidate will be based in PMU-Manila.

INCENTIVES INCLUDE: **Basic salary equivalent to SG 13, 13th month pay, philhealth, and paid annual leave.**

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT I

To provide general administrative support services to PMU, These include facilitating PMU communications through performance of receptionist duties such as telephone and correspondence management; organizing travel arrangements and maintenance of Admin filing system. The position is also responsible for a range of duties related to the PMU's transportation system.

The candidates must have completed 2-year studies in college and have at least 1-year of relevant work experience. Must be a computer literate.

Successful candidate will be based in PMU-Manila.

INCENTIVES INCLUDE: Basic salary equivalent to SG 9, 13th month pay, philhealth, and paid annual leave.

Interested applicants may apply in person or send their comprehensive resume with 2 pcs. 2x2 photos and educational credentials on or before ***January 11, 2002*** *to:*

WHSMP-PC

THE PERSONNEL OFFICER
WOMEN'S HEALTH & SAFE MOTHERHOOD PROJECT
PARTNERSHIPS COMPONENT
5B OSMEÑA BUILDING
1991 A. MABINI STREET, MALATE, MANILA
Fax # 536-6406
E-mail: whsm-pc@pacific.net.ph

Be with the Best!

AN INDUSTRY LEADER

Invites applicants with excellent interpersonal and communication skills to fill the following positions:

PART/FULL-TIME LECTURERS
- ▶ Honor graduates or teachers of UP, Ateneo, La Salle or board topnotchers; law or medicine students/graduates

PART/FULL-TIME TUTORS
- ▶ Graduates/students of UP, Ateneo, La Salle or PSHS
- ▶ For Science, Math, and Language subjects--also foreign languages, accounting and computer subjects

PREP TEACHERS
- ▶ Has at least 1 year teaching experience
- ▶ Pleasant personality

DEPARTMENT/BRANCH MANAGERS
- ▶ 2 years management experience

MANAGEMENT TRAINEES
- ▶ 6 months supervisory or marketing/operations experience

MIS
- ▶ With at least 1 year MIS experience

LOGISTICS & SERVICES OFFICER
- ▶ At least 2 years work experience in similar capacity
- ▶ Flexible, dependable

SECRETARIES
ACCOUNTING CLERK
MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS
WRITERS AND EDITORS
PROJECT MANAGERS

Send your comprehensive resume, transcript of records, and two 2x2 pictures to:
THE HUMAN RESOURCE DEPARTMENT
AHEAD LEARNING SYSTEMS, INC.

149 B.GONZALES STREET
LOYOLA HEIGHTS
QUEZON CITY

309 KATIPUNAN AVENUE
LOYOLA HEIGHTS
QUEZON CITY

2/F PROVIDENCE BUILDING
55 ANNAPOLIS STREET
GREENHILLS

PEARL PLAZA, PEARL DRIVE
ORTIGAS CENTER
PASIG CITY

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

CREDIT & COLLECTION ASSISTANT
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience in similar function
- ✓ Organized, strong interpersonal skills

FIELD SALES EXECUTIVE
- ✓ Male / Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ Highly motivated, physically fit, with at least 2 yrs sales exp., IT background an advantage
- ✓ Knowledgeable in and willing to travel to various parts of the country

HR ADMINISTRATOR
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, graduate of psychology or any related behavioral course
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs exp. in small enterprise & knowledgeable in basic HR policies
- ✓ High computer literacy, physically fit

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
- ✓ Female, at least 24 yrs old, business course graduate, high computer literacy
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, physically fit
- ✓ Systematic, familiar with basic office work
- ✓ Excellent written and oral communication skills

CUSTOMER SERVICE COORDINATOR
- ✓ Female, at least 24 years old, business degree graduate, high computer literacy, physically fit
- ✓ With at least 2 yrs experience, with strong interpersonal skills, can work well under pressure and with minimum supervision
- ✓ Residing within or around Valenzuela area

Send your comprehensive resume and photo to:
CARTAN DISTRIBUTION NETWORK, INC.
Rm. 805 State Centre Bldg., 333 Juan Luna St.,
Binondo, Manila

A well established first class retail company is in need of top caliber individuals to apply as

HUMAN RESOURCE SPECIALISTS

Code: R-HR

- ☑ Female, at least 26 years old
- ☑ Graduate of Business Management or any Social Science course, preferably with inclinations in business
- ☑ Minimum of one (1) year experience in human resources
- ☑ With strong leadership qualities, high initiative and organizational skills
- ☑ Must have the potential work in all areas of HR with minimum supervision
- ☑ Must be people-oriented, mature, analytical and highly motivated
- ☑ Must be able to adapt to a fast working environment
- ☑ Proficient in English communication and computer programs

Please send your application documents with contact numbers indicated, transcript of records, and a recent 2x2 photo to:

P.O. BOX 100
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
5th Floor, Building B, Megamall
Mandaluyong City

(Only qualified applicants will be scheduled for an interview)

PLEASE USE POSITION CODE

Isis International-Manila*, an international women's media information and communication service organisation based in Quezon City, Philippines, is in search of the following to join its dynamic and motivated team:*

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

She shall be primarily responsible for a) ensuring the overall smooth running of the office administration and personnel management of Isis International-Manila, b) continuous development and implementation of effective and efficient systems, policies and procedures related to Isis International-Manila's office administration and personnel management, c) ensuring the timely delivery of administrative support services and logistical requirements of its daily operations, and d) enforcing the policies and rules governing office administration and personnel management.

She shall also actively contribute to and participate in Isis' capacity-building programmes for women and media and infocom work.

She shall participate in the institution's regional and international advocacy work on women, media and infocom issues.

Essential Skills:

- awareness and understanding of women and media issues
- Bachelor's degree or at least 2-3 years related experience, preferably in a women's organisation, in carrying out the above mentioned tasks
- ability to supervise staff tasked with administrative work
- well organized and efficient in administering office systems, policies, and procedures
- strong writing and analytical skills
- knowledge of Philippine labor laws and requirements
- liaison with government agencies and legal counsel
- ability to communicate effectively in written and spoken English
- computer literacy, including email, internet and mailing list management
- ability to be self-managed, while also being a team player
- willingness to travel and attend meetings or conferences either locally or regionally

Salary: *Php. 30,000.00 per month*

RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

She is primarily responsible for a) expanding Isis' resource support (human, financial, technical) base, b) promoting the institution and marketing its products and services, and d) developing and implementing strategies for ensuring financial sustainability.

She shall also actively contribute to and participate in Isis' capacity-building programmes for women in media and infocom work.

She shall also participate in the institution's regional and international advocacy work on women, media and infocom issues.

Essential Skills:

- strong feminist perspective and has been involved with the women's or other social movement, nationally and regionally
- Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, Information Management or related courses or equivalent experience in the field
- strong background in fundraising and resource mobilization
- strong background in developing consulting services and business development
- strong networking skills, including electronic networking and communications
- understanding of women and infocom and media issues
- high degree of proficiency in written and spoken English
- strong writing and analytical skills
- computer literacy, including internet and e-Mail; website management skills
- experience in the production of information materials; Desktop publishing skills
- strong presentation skills
- ability to be self-managed, while also being a team player
- willing to relocate in the Philippines for at least 2 years
- willing to travel and attend meetings or conferences either locally or regionally
- has a valid passport

Salary: *Php. 30,000.00 per month*

INFOCOM CAPACITY-BUILDING CONSULTANT

She is primarily responsible for a) establishing a regular Infocom Training Programme that includes modules on radio, media, work, resource centre management, electronic networking, desktop publishing, website development, and b) taking the lead in organising training courses on infocom and exploring collaborative capacity-building training with other networks or organisations

Essential Skills:

- Awareness and understanding of women, infocom and media issues
- Bachelor's degree in Communication Arts, Information Technology or other related courses or equivalent experience in the field
- strong background in planning, organizing, and implementing training courses in infocom and media, and resource centre services
- strong background in developing training modules in both content and technical aspects
- excellent networking, electronic communication skills including email, mailing lists, online conferences
- high degree of proficiency in infocom technologies
- computer literacy, including internet and e-Mail; website management skills
- high degree of proficiency in written and spoken English
- creativeness and resourcefulness in designing and organizing trainings
- strong writing and analytical skills
- ability to be self-managed, while also being a team player
- willing to relocate in the Philippines for at least 2 years
- willing to travel and attend meetings or conferences either locally or regionally
- has a valid passport

Salary: *Php. 30,000.00 per month*

Special Benefits for Expatriates:

For expatriates relocating to the Philippines, there will be a modest relocation package and benefits in addition to the monthly salary, which include the following:

- ✓ monthly salary to be paid in US$ and pesos
- ✓ a monthly housing allowance of US$270
- ✓ a lump sum subsidy of US$500 for furnishings
- ✓ an annual one month's paid home leave, including roundtrip airfare to home country or the equivalent fare cost
- ✓ subsidy for additional freight cost during transfer to and from the Philippines

NOTE: For Filipinos, monthly salary shall be paid in Pesos.

Interested parties may send their application letter, resume and two reference letters by **31 January 2002** to:

The Executive Director
Isis International-Manila
#3 Marunong Street, Central District, Quezon City
Tel. Nos.: (632) 4353405; 4353408
Fax No.: (632) 924-1065

For inquiries, you may e-mail us at isis@isiswomen.org

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING!

MARKETING SUPERVISOR

- ⇨ University graduate of Marketing, Public Relations and Business related course
- ⇨ Preferably between 25-35 years old, with experience
- ⇨ Computer literate with excellent oral and written communication skills

PROGRAMMER/ PROJECT MANAGER

- ⇨ College graduate prefarably IT
- ⇨ Between 25-35 years old
- ⇨ With experience in HTML
- ⇨ Be prepared to show samples of web sites made

APPLY AT:

Second Floor, Phoenix Building
927 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City
Tel. No. 372-3550; E-mail: central@central.com.ph

URGENT
ACCOUNTANT

Qualifications

- ☐ Accounting Graduate
- ☐ At least 2 years experience in general accounting
- ☐ Computer literate, proficient in EXCEL
- ☐ Can work independently
- ☐ Willing to do fieldwork
- ☐ Preferably single, living in Parañaque, Muntinlupa or Las Piñas area
- ☐ Salary comensurate to experience.

Send your resumé to:

BOX MK-77
c/o Classified Ads Department
Philippine Daily Inquirer
G/F Atrium of Makati
Makati Avenue, Makati City
or Fax to (632) 825-9759

A social enterprise organization engaged in Fair Traded Handicrafts is in need of energetic and innovative

PRODUCT MERCHANDISER

for local Market

- ✓ A graduate of either
  Business Administration major in Marketing with background in Product Designing and Trends
  or
  B.S. Industrial Design with a thorough background in product marketing
- ✓ Must have proficiency with MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, PageMaker and Corel Draw
- ✓ At least 2 years experience in product trend merchandising
- ✓ At least 25-35 years old
- ✓ Must be a team player with good oral and written communication

Written applications with your curriculum vitaé should be sent to the Executive Director at 2594 Lamayan St., Sta. Ana, Manila or through Fax No. 563-4632, e-mail **safrudi@skyinet.net** and must arrive not later than January 12, 2002. Only prequalified applicants will be notified.

ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST INTERNATIONAL BANKS

IS INVITING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS

OFFICER

- Business, Accountancy or Economics graduate
- With at least 3 years work experience as an officer in a commercial bank on Export/Import and Remittance Operation
- Not over 35 years old

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Graduate of Accountancy course, preferably licensed Certified Public Accountant
- With 1 to 2 years work experience
- Computer literate

Interested applicants may please send ASAP their resumé to:

Code 69
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Atrium Building
Makati Avenue, Makati City

FASHION TEACHERS NEEDED

An International Fashion School in Manila requires teachers with expertise in the following areas:

FASHION MARKETING
PATTERN MAKING
RETAIL BUYING
INDUSTRIAL SEWING
FASHION DRAPING

Applicants **must** possess relevant post-secondary education and work experience.
Fax resumé and cover letter to **521-2593**
only qualified applicants will be considered
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

USAID-funded health logistics project requires six (6) energetic, conscientious individuals to participate as interviewers/data collectors for a 4-week health logistics system assessment to be conducted on 21 January to 15 February 2002.

Assignment will include:

- One (1) week assessment orientation training near Manila
- Three (3) weeks data collection in urban and rural health facilities in six regions

Region I	Ilocos Norte, Ilocos Sur and La Union
Region III	Bataan, Pampanga and Zambales
Region IV	Marinduque, Oriental Mindoro and Romblon
Region VI	Aklan, Capiz and Iloilo
Region VII	Bohol, Negros Oriental and Siquijor
Region XI	Davao del Norte, Davao Oriental and South Cotabato

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree
- Experience in field surveys
- Willingness to commit to a 4-week assignment
- Physical ability to travel in both urban and potentially difficult rural settings
- Familiarity with the areas (an advantage)

Requirements:

- Resumé (highlighting relevant experience)
- NBI or Police Clearance
- Recent 2 x 2 photo

Successful candidates will receive a reasonable daily consulting fee, per diem and travel allowances.

Please submit complete requirements to **Mr. JUN AMABLE** or **Ms. KATE MALSI** of **John Snow, Inc., 2nd Floor, Building 25, Department of Health, San Lazaro Compound, Rizal Avenue, Sta. Cruz, Manila**. Deadline of submission is on **8 January 2002.**

BE A PART OF A HIGH PERFORMANCE SALES & MARKETING TEAM

BE A PART OF A GLOBAL LEADER

We are a group of companies affiliated with the global leaders of a world-wide industry that has progressively grown in the last several years despite the economic recession. We have been the market leaders here in the Philippines for the past 25 years and still taking charge. Following our corporate targets for the year 2002, we are currently expanding our marketing operations and are in need of several aggressive

Sales & Marketing Executives

Qualifications:

- Male/Female, not more than 35 years of age
- With excellent oral and written communication skills and aggressive marketing personality
- Graduate of any college degree accepted
- Preferably with good sales & marketing experience

We will offer a very competitive compensation package to all who qualify. A comprehensive resumé with photo must be mailed no later than January 15, 2002 to:

Box KA-013-02 UM
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Ground Floor, Trinity Building,
636 T.M. Kalaw Street, Ermita, Manila

All who qualify and are accepted shall be hired immediately.

IMMEDIATE JOB OPENING AT PS BANK TOWER

PS Bank Tower
Suite 2104, 21st floor
Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
(Beside Makati Post Office)

WE NEED:

- ✓ College graduates of at least 4 years course from reputable schools and universities
- ✓ Energetic men and women of at least 20-38 years of age
- ✓ Individuals who have a good command of English or Chinese Language
- ✓ Those who are ready to undergo comprehensive company training and can work at once.

THEN YOU DESERVE:

- ✓ A STARTING PAY OF ABOVE-AVERAGE INCOME.
- ✓ Company sponsored travels (here and abroad)
- ✓ Career development and growth with our automatic promotion system.

See us in your proper business attire with 2 pcs. (2x2) ID pictures and your comprehensive resumé on *January 7, 8, 9 & 10 (Mon.-Thurs.) from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.* Bring extra ID and the clipping of this ad.

WE URGENTLY NEED HIGHLY-SKILLED INDIVIDUALS FOR THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

MARKETING EXECUTIVE

- Male or female with a computer-related degree from a reputable college or university.
- Preferably with experience in office automation/call centers.

WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR

- Must have at least 2 years working experience in warehouse operation.

OPTOMETRIST

- Female, with pleasing personality not more than 30 years old. ***(Call 7339630 for appointment for this position.)***

Due to the urgency, please e-mail your resumé to comlan@pacific.net.ph, or apply in person (bring 2x2 photo, resumé and other credentials) at address: 5/F Enterprise Bldg., 524 Q. Paredes St., Binondo, Manila.

Large Non-Life Insurance Agency needs the following (not over 50 years old):

- ➢ **ACCOUNTANT**
- ➢ **MARKETING SUPERVISOR**
- ➢ **OFFICE MANAGER**

Salary commensurate to experience.

Send bio-data to: **Non-life Insurance**

Code: MN-2030
c/o Philippine Daily Inquirer
Pasong Tamo corner Yague &
Mascardo Streets, Makati City

A. An international company for cosmetic equipment which opens a branch in the Philippines is looking for dynamic

Sales Representatives

all over the country. Willing to be assigned in areas: Metro Manila, Cebu and Davao.

Requirements:

- Self-motivated and Hardworking
- Graduate of Bachelor of Science: Preferably Nurses or with Medical/Pharmaceutical background
- Age: 23-28
- Fluent in English

Salary + allowance + high commissions will be offered to the most qualified candidates!

B. One (1) **Technician**:

Requirements:

- Graduate of Electronics Technology or ECE.
- New graduates are welcome, with or without experience

Please send resumés to: P.O. Box 12546 Ortigas Center, Pasig:
Attention: Leah (by mail) or send e-mail to:
leahgg@edsamail.com.ph

Kamameshi Marketing Corporation

Is in need of personnel for the following positions:

❶ **EXECUTIVE ASST. for OPERATIONS**
❷ **OUTLET SUPERVISORS**
❸ **WAITERS**
❹ **CASHIERS** with knowledge on POS System
❺ **SUSHIMEN** with at least 5 years experience
❻ **DRIVER/VALLET PARKERS**
with Professional Driver's License
❼ **PURCHASING ASSISTANTS**
computer literate

For positions 1 and 2 - College graduate
HRM or Marketing degree

Interested applicants must submit personally their resumé with 2x2 picture at 5787 Zobel Roxas Street, Makati City. Telephone calls shall not be entertained.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

MEDTRONIX

Medical Supplies & Equipment

We Offer:

- ***Dynamic Team***
- ***Opportunity to Grow***

A fast Growing company is in need of people to fill in the following positions:

SALES/ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES

- Preferably registered Nurse or any related Medical course
- At least one year experience in selling preferably in Medical Supplies/Disposable
- Preferably female, single 22-30 years old
- Computer literate
- Pleasing personality with written communication skills
- Friendly & able to relate well with customers

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT/OFFICE CLERK

- Accounting graduate
- Computer literate (Microsoft Word, Excel & Power point)
- At least one year working experience
- Female, single, 21-30 years old

Interested applicants may submit or e-mail their resumé with 2x2 picture to:

MEDTRONIX Medical Supplies & Equipment
Suite 407 Pasda Mansion,
#77 Panay Avenue, corner Timog, Quezon City
medtronx@philonline.com

Note: Applicants should come in proper business attire on Monday, Tuesday and Thursday from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM for interview.

Preparing for the Interview

Practice.

A little role-playing can help Jaymie a lot. She can prepare some standard questions she may receive and then she can let her friend sit in as a make-believe interviewer. She will get the chance to rehearse her answers and receive comments from her partner on how she's doing. Some interviewers may ask her some technical questions on her field or course so she needs to read up on her definitions (e.g., What are the four Ps of marketing?)

Some of the standard questions she's bound to encounter are: a) What are your strengths and weaknesses? b) Why did you decide to take up this course? c) What was your favorite course or subject? d) Why did you get a low grade in this course?

Interview opportunities shouldn't be taken lightly. Good preparation can reduce anxiety and will definitely enable Jaymie to give her best during rare moments. That extra effort in preparation can mean the difference between a new job and another ding.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER JOB MARKET
www.jobmarketonline.com
www.inq7.net

MEDICard PHILS INC.

One of the country's leading HMO and the first HMO to be awarded ISO 9002 is looking for assertive, dynamic and energetic individuals to fill up the following vacancies:

• NURSES

- Male or Female. At least 5'7" for males and 5'3" for females. Must be a registered nurse; With at least 6 months to 1 year experience in a hospital or HMO setting; With pleasing personality and above-average communication skills; Willing to be assigned in Libis, Cainta, Makati, Pasig.

• X-RAY TECHNOLOGIST

- Female, between 21 to 27 years of age; Graduate of B.S. Radiologic Therapy; With at least 6 months relevant experience (ultrasound, x-ray); Must be computer literate.

• LIAISON OFFICER

- Graduate of any Medical Course; Between 21 to 25 years old; With above-average written and oral communication skills; Must be computer literate.

Qualified and interested applicants are requested to apply personally. Bring resumé, transcript of records and 2x2 photo at: Medicard Phils., Inc.: Human Resources Department - 5/F Sagittarius Bldg., H.V. Dela Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City. Email us at rsalmon@medicardphils.com

(Previous applicants need not apply)

SUNDAY
INQUIRER
MAGAZINE

GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

January 6, 2002
Volume 14 No. 44

Pia Guanio

That Girl on TV

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LOOKING FOR DR. DEL MUNDO

I was glad to read this article about Dr. Fe del Mundo (**SIM**, 2 December 2001). I met her in the late '50s through my aunt, Dr. Cecilia Sison. Where can I write to her?

STELLA DE LEON
Banting and Best Medical Research
University of Toronto
112 College St. Rm. 305
Toronto, ON M5G 1L6 Canada
stella.deleon@mailbox66.utcc.utoronto.ca

You can write Dr. Fe del Mundo at the Children's Medical Center, 11 Banawe St., Quezon City.

GREAT AND SELFLESS

There may be beautiful faces that grace your cover, but great and selfless achievers are hard to find, while leaving lasting impressions on your readers. Dr. Fe del Mundo is worth a cover story (**SIM**, 2 December 2001). INQUIRER readers are profound ones who appreciate such talent.

ELIZABETH S. QUA
bethequa@easycall.com.ph

COURAGE

Thank you for your article on Bambi Santos (**SIM**, 9 December 2001), a heartbreaking example of courage and sacrifice we don't hear about on CNN.

RENE G. ONTAL
New York City
rgontal@prodigy.net

REMEMBERING BAMBI

To Miss Lira Dalangin: You may not remember me, but I used to be a writer for Chi-Rho (around 1994 to 1996). I just want to extend my sincerest condolences to Bambi Santos' family and friends (**SIM**, 9 December 2001). Bambi and I only met in passing, but I vividly remember her warm smile and headstrong beliefs. Chi-Rho shaped my mind in more ways than you can imagine, and as a predecessor, Bambi played a very important role in doing that. May she rest in peace, wherever she may be, knowing that she had to sacrifice her own life for a better society. *Mabuhay ka*, Bambi.

KAREN PALOMO
Traffic Coordinator, Discovery Channel-Civilization
Toronto, Canada
(416) 332-4552
kpalomo@tsn.ca

WHITE MAN, BROWN MAN

I'm a little uncomfortable about Jonathan Best, a white American, telling me how I can help the Philippines during the Christmas season (**SIM**, 9 December 2001). Why couldn't SIM find a Filipino writer to write about the woes of the Philippines this holiday season? Is there a shortage of Filipino writers on your staff? Or is the Filipino plight more convincing, if not moving, when it is told by a white man?

PERLITA PAYNE
Berkeley, California
Perlita@pacificcenter.org

Mr. Best chose to write on the subject for the bi-monthly column he shares with Mr. John Silva, "End Page." He lives and works in the Philippines.

EDIFYING

What an edifying and beautiful article that was by Wawel Mercado (**SIM**, 16 December 2001). Most of all, I was struck by the contrast between the article on Mila Mercado and that on Maria Teresa Carlson Fariñas: one, about a woman loved, the other about a woman used and abused. One, about a woman who is loved for what she is – a wife, a daughter of God – rather than mourned for what she isn't; the other about a woman who seems always to have been regarded as an object of pleasure. Please have more articles of this nature – articles that inspire, articles that sing of the heroism of so many of the ordinary people of this country.

GEORGE V. WINTERNITZ
Risk Management Solutions
gvwinternitz@attglobal.net

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The Cover Image 'It' girl Pia Guanio combines smarts and sassiness, making for truly drool-worthy TV *Photograph by Eddieboy Escudero*

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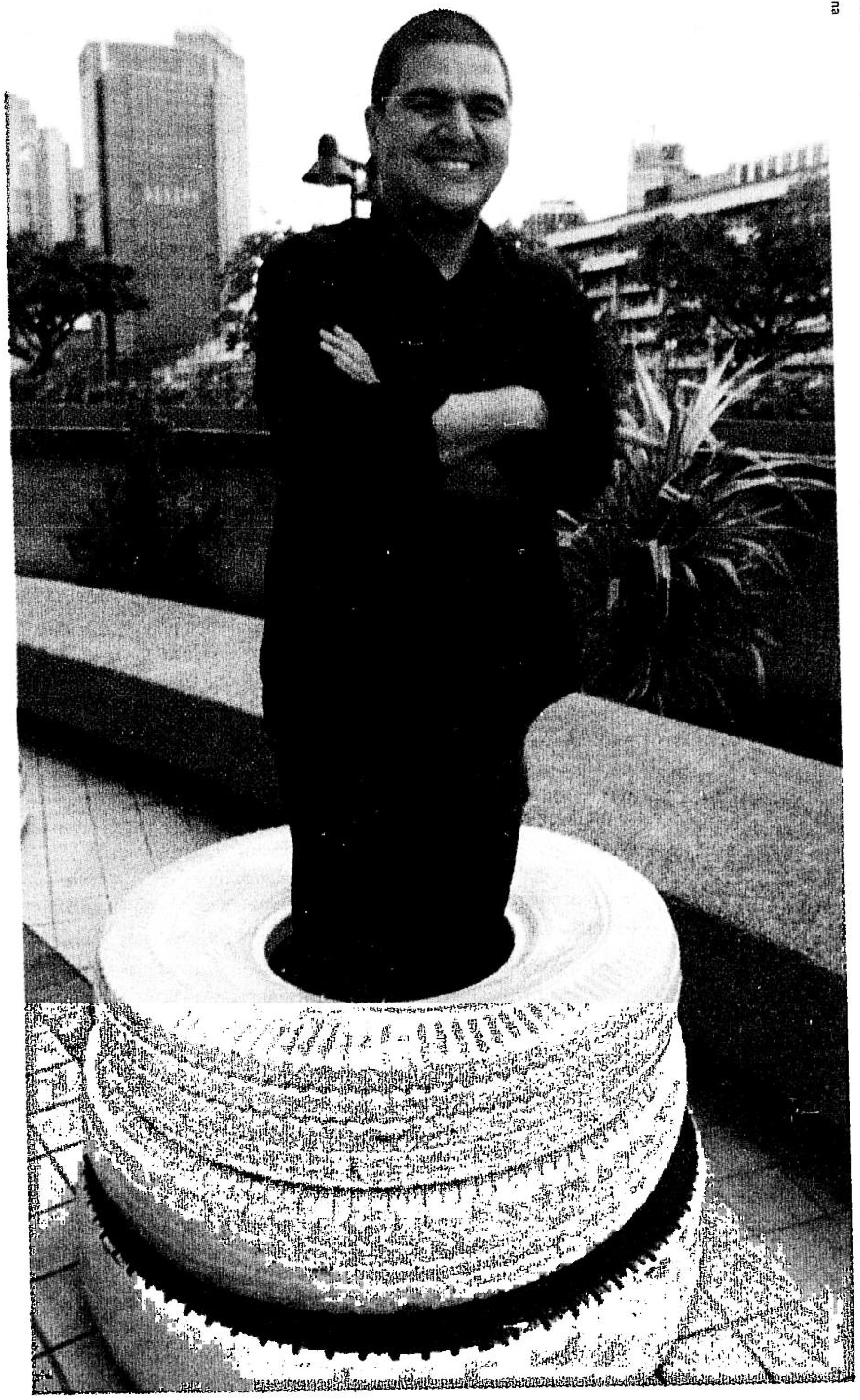
Movers and Shakers
by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz

The man behind the graceful Visa commercial kicked butt at the recent ad congress, but David Guerrero's next target is less cinematic: The top adman is determined to bring real-life grit into the soft-focus world of advertising

David's Goliath



Johnny Villena

Out of the box: Off-beat thinking got Guerrero to the top (left); Zhang Ziyi struts her stuff in the Visa TV commercial (above)

BACK WHEN HE WAS A MINT-CONDITION ENGLISH TOURIST IN THE EARLY '80S WHO APPROACHED LOCAL COLOR WITH THE EAGERNESS OF A PUPPY, DAVID GUERRERO USED TO HANG OUT WITH SOME SCRUFFY LOWLIFES IN SEEDY CUBAO.

There, between choking on fish balls fresh off the street, he would rush off reviews of rock albums that were unusual for their substance at a time when a plain *bangaw* rating was expressive enough for the *jeprox* crowd. Hanging out at Jingle Music Magazine helped him keep his sanity, Guerrero recalls of those days when belonging to a prominent family that counts diplomats, writers, artists, beauty queens and assorted Rizal relatives among its members could be a tough balancing act.

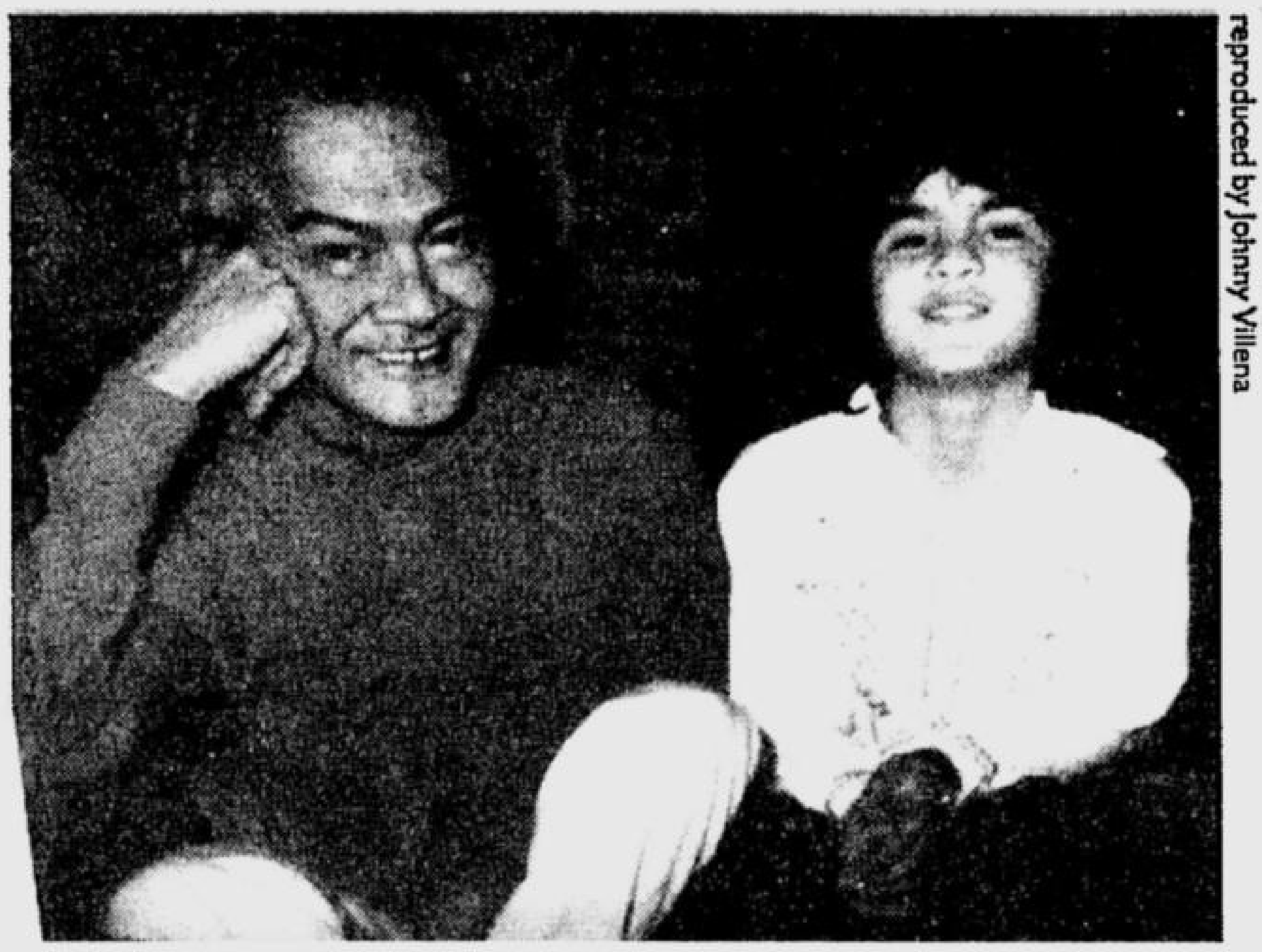
"There was no direct pressure to excel, but it's easy enough to feel like an underachiever," says this chair and executive creative director of the ad agency BBDO/Guerrero Ortega. Deriving his identity merely from his relations stopped him from staying in this country, he adds. "I had to learn a trade on my own and get a sense of my own identity," says Guerrero, who forthwith went to London for his studies.

These days, the 40-year-old advertising executive is no longer known merely as the son of Rizal biographer and diplomat Leon Ma. Guerrero, nor as the nephew of writer Carmen Guerrero Nakpil. He is now hailed for having shepherded BBDO/Guerrero Ortega into becoming one of the country's leading ad agencies. At the recent Advertising Congress in Cebu, the company got no less than 97 awards: 17 golds, 12 silvers and 68 bronzes across 18 brands: Pepsi, Baygon, Canesten, FedEx, Pizza Hut, Argentina, Adidas, Bayer Aspirin, Dimensione, Bench, Unitel, Microsoft, UnTV, Bayfresh, Starbust, WWF, Aetna and Iconos.

"I'm a lot more comfortable now talking about family," laughs Guerrero, an only child. "Up to a few years ago, I wouldn't refer to them at all."

Still, the 360-degree turn from being counter-culture music reviewer to mainstream commerce surprised not a few, including Guerrero himself. "I used to think of advertising as an evil force," he recalls. But being in England in the

Family man: As a 10-year-old tyke with his father, Leon Ma. Guerrero



reproduced by Johnny Villena

mid-'80s exposed him to "progressive forces using advertising to promote public causes like Ending World Hunger, which raised the stature of the trade. So I started seeing it as a neutral tool. Everything depends on who is using it and to what end." It is, he muses, "a tool or technique for saying something. And I wanted to put such techniques towards a cause I really believed in. But to be good at it, I had to join the big players for wider exposure."

It also helped that he took up a post-graduate advertising course in London; the education gave him a different perspective as well. "There is greater tolerance for alternative families and lifestyles and a stress on equal opportunity."

After working in London and Hong Kong as a copywriter until the mid-'90s, Guerrero moved back to the Philippines in 1995 where he worked in the creative department of Ogilvy until 1998. From there, he put up BBDO/Guerrero Ortega as a joint venture with the multinational BBDO.

"I wanted to show that we stand on equal ground with the rest of the world," says BBDO's Asia/Pacific regional creative director for Visa International and FedEx.

A product of a Filipino-British union, Guerrero felt that, like most overseas Filipino children, he had no real grasp of Filipino culture. "Filipinos are so good at assimilating that we are in danger of losing that which makes us different." Coming home to the Philippines gave him a sense of what he can do best, he adds. "I feel that I can do more here than in England."

Being identified as Filipino despite his Caucasian looks proved quite an advantage, he notes. "Advertising is a multinational field, so people see you beyond your looks and accent. All they care about is, can you do the job and do it well?" Being a Filipino, he adds, also reassures local clients and advertisers of his commitment to the country and the region. "I'm not a traveling expatriate so they know that my lifetime commitment is to my home country."

The commitment has paid off, judging from the award-winning commercials that Guerrero's team has crafted, the latest being the Visa International ad that has Zhang Ziyi reprising her acrobatics in "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon."

As creative director of the ad, Guerrero put together a team from the Asia-Pacific region to work on the whole campaign and supervised its script and production. "I'm proudest of that ad," he confides, "because of the sheer scale of it. It took us three to four months of work in Sydney and Hong Kong ,and it was shown all over the region."

But his favorite ad remains that of "The Guardian" newspaper in London, he says. "I saw it in the early '80s and it shows someone who looks like a thug about to attack a guy with an attaché case. It says something about how things appear at first glance and how biases are thus reinforced because we tend to look at things from a limited perspective. Then it zooms out and shows us that the 'thug' is going to push the other guy out of the way of a pile of bricks about to fall on him. The blurb goes something like, 'The Guardian: only when we see the bigger picture do we begin to really understand the world.'"

Locally, Guerrero cites the McDonald's "Karen and Gina" commercial for "being quiet and understated, but makes you feel good about the place."

The best ad, he says, "is always the simplest, and that requires tremendous discipline. It's difficult to achieve in our context because adding on is a cultural trait. One is always fighting against clutter and noise." Of course, Guerrero adds, quality of execution also matters. "You must work to a standard that meets the best in the region and the world."

That is what makes advertising such a challenge, he says. "You have to keep reminding yourself of the global nature of the competition and not settle for less."

Selling to the current depressed market is another challenge. "You have to cheer people up," he reveals. "Humor is probably the most essential tool in advertising. There is an implicit contract that if you are able to entertain the market, it will do you the favor of remembering your brand."

Using sex in advertising is another tool, concedes Guerrero, but one he isn't too keen on. "It's been overused to get attention. There are so many ways to stand out, but it doesn't necessarily work. Show a guy hanging upside down from a ceiling and people will sit up and take notice, but unless your product is relevant to that stunt, then your ad may be exploitative. And if people think something is inappropriate, they will respond to it accordingly."

The biggest challenge in advertising right now is "showing the world as it is, not what we think it should be, because that's unattainable," notes Guerrero. "Advertising and mass media still tend to speak down to people. You see rich people passed off as poor folk, pictures of an ideal home, the perfect family in soft focus and dappled sunlight, and role modeling of how things should be." Fortunately, he adds, this idealized take on the world is changing. "In the next few years, we're bound to see ads that portray life as it is. This is the way the rest of the world is working. After all, real life can be more interesting than making things up."

Already, BBDO/Guerrero Ortega has started using reality techniques in its ads. "In this Canesten ad, we showed an ordinary family getting ready for breakfast, transferring fungus as they go along their daily routine. This is what everyday life is."

The ad has won awards, says Guerrero, and underscores that in advertising, business and art must go together. "This is where business has to acknowledge and employ the talents of creative people: writers, filmmakers, photographers, etc. It is quite satisfying to bring them together."

His dream ad remains that of selling the Philippines as a destination and a good place to do business. "A lot of our problems with attracting foreign investors stem from public perception. We should counter the negative image we have abroad."

But no, he demurs, he could never imagine his life as an ad. "It's not something that would make a good product or sales pitch because it's too complicated," he laughs. It might also be, in the rose-tinted lens of advertising, less than idealized.

The only son of diplomat Leon Ma. Guerrero and Englishwoman Margaret Burke, who is now retired but used to supply BBC with personnel, David recalls that his parents' circumstances made it difficult for them to get together until he was about 10.

They remain his biggest influences, however. "From my father, I got my perfectionist streak and quest for excellence, and from my mom, my sense of fairness and egalitarianism." His mother, he says proudly, was a vegetarian long before it became fashionable to be so, and sent him to this boarding school, Dartington, that was quite ahead of its time. "It was co-ed, we had no uniforms and people were called by their first name." It was here, he acknowledges, that he first moved around with "kids from the liberal media establishment and free thinkers."

Guerrero met his would-be wife in Hong Kong in 1994, again, under less than conventional circumstances. Angel, who has a 12-year-old daughter from a previous relationship, works for a rival ad agency. The couple got hitched in '99, with their then year-old son, Mo (for Leon Mario Guerrero) included in the bridal march. For this interview, Guerrero readily whips out stacks of photo albums showing off his family and assorted relations. A framed photograph of him cuddling Mo also sits atop his cluttered desk.

But the proud family man remains a corporate warrior. His awards, he says astutely, only affirm that old chestnut about the capacity to learn. "The more you know, the more you realize how much you don't really know," says Guerrero. "We've made some nice ads, but when we look around, we realize we have to do so much more. We've just barely started."

Poetry

Dawn

I am in the wrong room;
I am hearing rain when
There's supposed to be none
During this time of the year.
I have been hearing it
Since dawn it must have
Already flooded the landing.
But I am not about to get up
From my bed yet, nor
Switch on the light,
Nor go out from my room to check.
My mind may not be in the right region;
Or, I may be in the wrong reason.

Julius Sering Clar

Sa Nagising Mong Pandama

Habang kinikiliti
ng ambon ang bubong,
at nakauwi na ang huling
silahis ng silaw,
napupuno naman ng tinta
ang langit.

May kamanyang ang tali
ng kapanagimpan
habang ginagapos
ang mga tagpo sa kuwentong
dulot nito, na babasahin
mo sa nakasilid mo pang
balintataw.

Sa iyong paghiwalay
sa paghaplos, at pagsiksik
sa bulsa ng surealismo,
sana'y sundan mo man lamang
ang hagdang-liwanag
ng aking bakas,
at dukutin ang sidhing
nananatiling lamang-bigat
na lamang sa kalupi
ng iyong alaala.

Sana'y maukit kita
sa sulok na ito
na pumapagitna
at dito na lamang
manatili.

Subalit mananaig pa rin
ang memorya ng paghaplos
at ipagtitilamsik mo lamang
ang init sa laman
ng bago mong kasama
na nakasungkit sa pamumulaklak
ng nagising mong pandama.

Jose Jason L. Chancoco

Uptitude, Not Aptitude

A realistic upbeat uplook for the years ahead

by Gina B. Atencio

ap·ti·tude ("ap'ti-tyood"; -tood") *n.* **1.** *An inherent ability, a talent.* We gloat about having it! We gauge each other by it! When we have much of it, we wallow in pride; and when we SEEM not to have it, we whine for lack of it.

But life seems to scorn at just having aptitude alone.

That aptitude, left to itself, sums up to nothing.

It has to have an endearing flare, a positive prod, an up-spur. Aptitude has to have a steady drive.

God ... is able to do IMMEASURABLY MORE than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us ... EPHESIANS 3:20

What we need is not aptitude alone,
What we need beyond it is **UPTITUDE!**
An attitude with an "up" attitude.

An attitude that keeps us in a positive state of mind no matter how negative our situation is.

Is that essential? Matter of life and death? You bet! In fact, someone defined **attitude** this way —

> It is the "advance man" of our true selves.
> Its roots are inward but its fruit is outward.
> It is our best friend or our worst enemy.
> It is more honest and more consistent than our words.
> It is an outward look based on past experiences.
> It is a thing which draws people to us or repels them.
> It is never content until it is expressed.
> It is the librarian of our past.
> It is the speaker of our present.
> It is the prophet of our future.

That's why we need to keep attitude with an "up" in it! **Uptitude!**

Let's have a sound out. Think of these people:

Franklin D. Roosevelt, Helen Keller, Winston Churchill, Albert Schweitzer, Clara Barton, Albert Einstein, George T. Washington . . .

What do they all have in common? Fame and prominence, right? Why? Because, they're brilliant stars in their own fields!

What made them so? APTITUDE?

Guess again!

The early home lives of these men and women — and that of 300 others — were investigated meticulously by Victor and Mildred Goertzel.

You may have heard of their legendary study "Cradles of Eminence". The results unfurled real shockers:

- 3/4 of them were troubled as children either by poverty, by a broken home, or by rejecting, over-possessive, or dominating parents.
- 74 of 85 writers of fiction or drama and 16 of the 20 poets came from homes where, as children, they saw tense psychological drama played out by their parents.
- Over 1/4 of them were physical handicaps, meaning blind, deaf, or crippled.

Boy, with that kind of backdrop, they sure would have needed something more to life than just aptitude!

Something that would keep them fighting. Something that wouldn't make them throw in the white towel! Something that would hold them steady to the end!

Now, what do you think that might be? . . . *Now you're thinking!*

Uptitude! An attitude with an "up!"

What was it someone said?

> *Our living is determined not so much by what life brings to us as by the attitude we bring to life; not so much by what happens to us as by the way our mind looks at what happens.*

That's what we all need . . . a realistic UP definition and application of *attitude.*

The lights of the world around us may snuff out, but no sweat — what matters is the world within us.

When UP is IN, watch what happens. *God is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us* (EPHESIANS 3:20).

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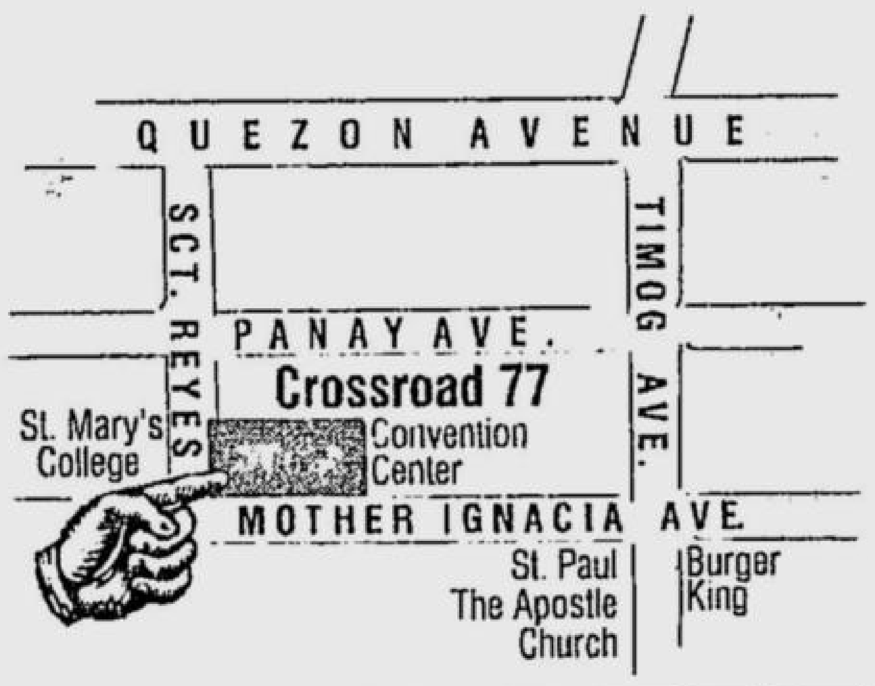
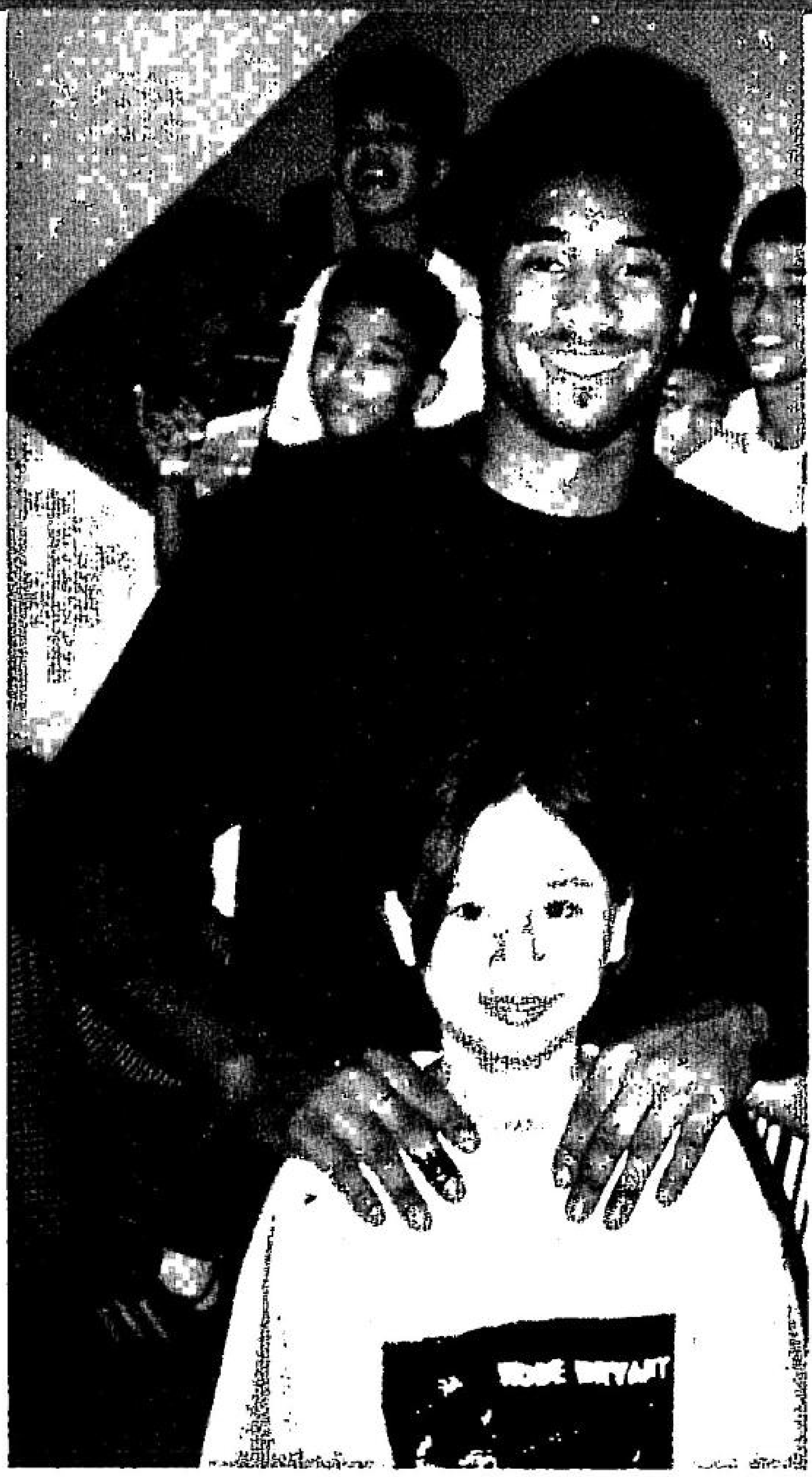


Twists of Fate
by Jizelle P. Bautista

Despite losing an arm in a freak accident, Kat Tan never gave up and became a true phenom on and off the court

Another **Shot** at Life



An 11-year-old Kat with idol Kobe Bryant (top). Sharpshooting Kat today (left)

KATHRYN GRACE TAN IS ONE OF THE TOP YOUNG TALENTS IN PHILIPPINE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL, AS PROVEN BY THE WNCAA MYTHICAL PLAYER AWARD SHE RECEIVED A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. BUT WHAT MAKES HER SPECIAL GOES BEYOND THAT. IT'S BECAUSE SHE'S MANAGED TO BECOME A BASKETBALL STAR WITH ONLY ONE ARM.

Her demeanor and background belie the turn of events that led to her losing her left arm. Kat, as she is more popularly known, is the daughter and only child of Rubin and Virginia Tan. She is a sophomore at De La Salle Zobel, where she is also a member of the school's basketball varsity team.

At 15, Kat seems like a typical teenager. She never misses out on spending time with her friends, watching movies, going to the malls, playing with her Playstation — all of which she does in between basketball practice and studying. She also speaks the lingo most teens of today have: beginning every sentence with "*Parang, alam mo 'yon?*" and ending with "*Ganyan-ganyan*."

If the usual teenager's bedroom has walls plastered with posters of a favorite Hollywood actor, a famous pop star or a sports hero, Kat's room is no different, save that hers looks like a virtual altar to Los Angeles Lakers superstar Kobe Bryant. Signed posters, a framed Lakers flag, and a blown-up photograph of an 11-year-old Kat standing in front of the NBA star forward decorate her walls

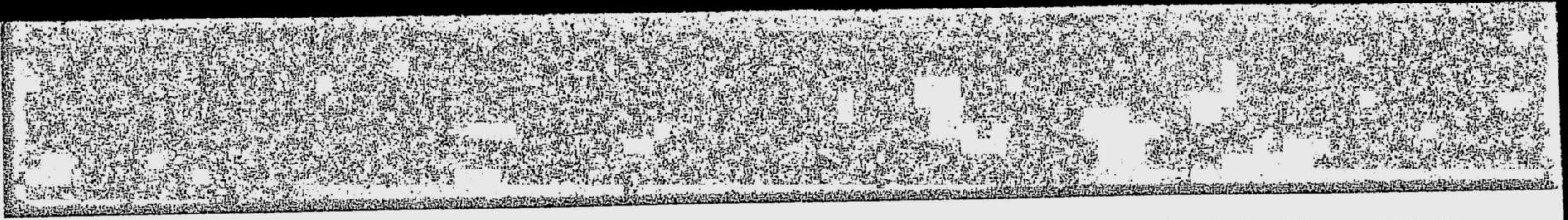
FILA
La Salle
18
SPALDING
NBA

Lastly, Kat is in love, but not with the boy next door. Kat is deeply in love with basketball.

Kat's love for basketball goes back to her younger years. Influenced by her dad and her friends, she recalls that she was around 8 when she began getting serious with the sport, and started playing everyday. Kat also showed this active, competitive spirit in school. "I was joining spelling bees, and contests," she humbly recalls. "*Sabi ng* dad *ko* daredevil *daw ako*," she discloses while snickering.

However, Kat's lively childhood took a sudden, violent turn on November 20, 1996, when De La Salle Zobel was celebrating its 18th Foundation Day. One of the rides was a fish coaster that 11-year-old Kat, together with five other friends, lined up for. Riding in pairs, the fourth graders rode three coaster cars. Kat recalls that even before the ride started, she already felt something was wrong. She remembers seeing a loose screw kept in place only by a coil of GI wire. "*Nakita ko 'yon, maluwag*," she says. However, being her daredevil self, she did not mind and went on with the ride.

Kat recollects that as the ride was on, someone behind them shouted at the operator to speed up the fish coaster. And the operator did so—then he left to buy something. Then the ride went haywire. The coaster began to pick up more speed, such that at every turn, Kat remembers everyone in the fish coaster, including several watching from the school grounds, already screaming. Yet nothing was done. Kat remembers that



she could see the screw in their car loosen little by little as the coaster went faster, until finally, it fell off and their car was thrown off the rail. "I landed *sa may* rail, *sa ginugulungan nung* ride," she narrates.

Kat landed on the ground, her left arm extended over the coaster's rail. But the ride was still going fast. In a matter of seconds, the coaster rolled over to where Kat was lying and ran over her arm, completely cutting it off from her body. The friend who rode the car with her flew straight into the machine and died instantly.

Kat remembers being conscious all the time: lying on the school grounds, being brought to the clinic at 2 p.m., going to Medical City at 7 p.m., and being operated on. She knew she had just lost her arm.

In fact, while being carried to the clinic, she was asking the people around her to look for it. She could see her bone protruding from her body. Yet she did not cry. Kat says that right then and there, she accepted what had happened.

"I accepted it *kasi nakita ko talaga ano'ng nangyari*," she explains. But together with that acceptance came the fear and anxiety that her family and friends would start treating her differently, that things would not be normal anymore, that things would not be like before.

All these worries disappeared by the time she came home from the hospital that Christmas. Her family and friends were there. And they all treated her just as they did before the accident.

Feeling grateful and blessed, Kat bounced back. "I worked things out by myself," she proudly says. She shares that she taught herself to get used to doing things with just one hand. She learned to eat almost anything using just a spoon. She also made her own style of dressing up. "*Sanayan lang rin 'yan* (It's just a matter of getting used to it)."

People who know Kat can attest to the fact that she found no difficulty at all in adjusting. "*Ako mismo, gusto ko 'yung sarili ko mag*-adjust," she shares. "*Ayoko yung* thought *na 'Hindi mo kaya 'yan.' Ayokong kinaaawaan ako.* I wanted to try things first. I wanted to prove to them that I could do it despite everything," she adds.

And she did. Just coming home from the hospital, a month after the accident, Kat asked for a Little Tikes basketball goal from her parents as a Christmas gift. It was her first baby step to playing basketball again. All through the Christmas break, Kat practised with her mini-basketball and goal in their *lanai*. When classes resumed that January, armed with a junior-sized basketball, Kat spent her afternoons with her friends, dribbling and shooting hoops. The following year, she tried out for her school's basketball varsity team and wowed everybody when she got accepted.

After a year on the team, Kat received a Special Recognition Award from the school for her athletic accomplishments. The following season, Kat won what to her is one of her most cherished achievements: she was given the Mythical Player Award in the WNCAA — beating at least 60 other young athletes. That same year, before she graduated, she was awarded a Plaque of Recognition for being an Outstanding Athlete at De La Salle Zobel.

Now, almost four years after the accident, Kat still feels lucky despite what happened. The reason for this, she says, is that before the accident, she lived a happy-go-lucky life. "*Kahit ano na lang*," she says. After the mishap, she gained a new perspective in her young life and learned to give it much value. She learned how strong she could be. From all that has happened to her, Kat shares what she deems as her most important learning, "*Parang, alam mo 'yon?* Believe in yourself. Don't let anything stop you from doing what you want, from doing what you love. And always have faith in God, faith and hope and trust. *Ganyan-ganyan.*"

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Valle Verde Country Club Pasig
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DR. WALTER BRUSH

BACK PAIN • SCIATICA • PINCHED NERVES • POOR POSTURE

Dr. Ken Sison treats a patient who has long been suffering from low back pain and sciatica. Dr. Sison applies a specific spinal manipulation (flexion-distraction technique) to re-align the vertebrae and reduce pain symptoms from "pinched nerves" and poor posture.

SPINE DOCTOR

- MIGRAINE
- STIFF NECK
- SHOULDER PAIN
- LOW BACK PAIN
- LEG PAIN / SCIATICA
- DISC PROBLEMS
- SCOLIOSIS
- PINCHED NERVES
- POOR POSTURE

FREE CONSULTATION

CHRONIC MIGRAINE • NECK PAIN

Dr. Brush performs a "spinal adjustment" on the neck of a patient suffering from chronic migraine and neck pain by restoring the spinal bones to their proper motion and position. The adjustment relieves the patient from numbness, tingling and other body pains.

"What was once considered an alternative method of treatment has become one of the most trusted, effective, and sought after treatment for muscular-skeletal disorders of the spine." All UNCC chiropractors are U.S.-licensed and have treated many difficult cases in the United States and in the Philippines.

Cover Story

[illegible]

[illegible] traffic [illegible] messenger of the news and broadcast workhorse, Pia Guanio is [illegible] places. And it helps that she's got a good head on her shapely shoulders.

Hyperactive Angel

SURE, SHE CAN DO THE HELICOPTER, BUT PIA GUANIO'S MORE THAN JUST A HIGH-FLYING TV BABE.

THINK OF HER AS THE WINDOWS XP OF TELEVISION PERSONALITIES: A MORE EFFICIENT MULTI TASKING PLATFORM, A MUCH FRIENDLIER GRAPHIC INTERFACE, AND ONE HELL OF AN OPERATING SYSTEM.

> *"I have to be doing stuff all the time, I cannot be behind a desk. Part of the reason I love the job is you never have the same day every day. Everything has to be fresh and new"*

For non-geeks, read: She's hot.

Of course, you have to be to survive and thrive in the ultra-competitive world of network television, where on top of having to deliver the goods each and every day, you also have a kind of meritocracy based on appearance.

The leggy and naturally vivacious 26-year-old has that department covered, too.

"I'm pretty much where I want to be," says Guanio, currently one of the hosts of ABS-CBN's weekday morning show "*Alas Singko Y Media*" and co-host of the weekly "Review Night" on Cinema One with Ryan Agoncillo.

"I like the news magazine format because I'm interested in a lot of different things, and every day I feed that hunger. I've half a mind to become a savior of animals, and half a mind to become a sports-oriented person."

The younger of two children, Guanio grew up in what she describes as a "basketball family." Brother Joey was a former PBA player, and is now assistant coach for the Shell team.

"We were very rough and tumble," she recalls. "I was close to my father's side of the family, and they were all boys. That's why I'm not very *kikay*.

I would pick fights with my cousins, play whatever rough games they were playing, pick fights with my brother…"

But Guanio was also weaned on the tube, like most of her generation. "I was influenced by a lot of the figures I saw on TV growing up. Loren Legarda. Ces Drilon. So it was a choice of being a Loren – or a Susan Dey."

The "LA Law" Susan Dey, that is. Not the "Partridge Family" Susan Dey – that was a little before her time.

In any case, by the time she was ready for college, Guanio had the game plan set: broadcasting first, then the College of Law.

Fresh out of the UP College of Mass Communication, she landed a job as researcher for Loren Legarda's "The Inside Story." "The plan was to learn the ropes behind the cameras. If there's one thing that totally turns me off, it's pretty faces that just read off scripts and don't know what's going on production-wise."

Guanio became a segment producer for the show, and eventually associate producer.

To hone her writing skills, she made a radical detour after "The Inside Story" and became associate editor of the now-defunct Internet magazine "Link."

Then she went back to television as an executive producer of the "Lakbay TV" travel channel. It was for Lakbay that she first began to venture on camera, hosting "Lakbay Now," a magazine show.

"It's easier," she says of on-camera work. "If you feel comfortable in front of a camera and are blessed with the talkativeness that I have, it comes naturally. I never felt self-conscious or tongue-tied."

Still, her greatest exposure came when she became Caltex's "Traffic Angel" for "Roadwatch," a radio program simulcast on four FM stations that had her giving traffic reports from a helicopter hovering over the metropolis.

The show generated intense interest in just who this "Traffic Angel" was, so much so that when ABS-CBN decided to purchase their own high-tech helicopter for live in-the-air on-the-air broadcasts, they gave Guanio a call, landing her a slot in "*Alas Singko Y Media*."

"They still stick me in a helicopter Mondays and Fridays," she reports. She also produces her own segment for the morning show, apart from taping the weekly movie review program, hosting the occasional sports event, writing the occasional freelance article, and doing a little modeling on the side.

"I have to be doing stuff all the time," says the hyperactive Guanio. "I cannot be behind a desk. Part of the reason I love the job is you never have the same day every day. Everything has to be fresh and new."

"Just don't make me sing and dance," she adds.

Guanio gets by on an average of three to four hours of sleep. Because she has to be on the set and conscious by 4 a.m., she's up by 3:30 a.m. and doesn't go to bed until 11 p.m.

"You feel quite fulfilled packing so much in your day," she says.

In spite of what would be a grueling schedule for most people, she still finds time for racquetball, power boxing, basketball, driving out of town in her bad-ass pickup truck, and her boyfriend – not necessarily in that order.

For the moment, law school is on hold.

We have too many lawyers anyway, but how many high-flying, multitasking TV babes?

Not enough.

Netizens
by Ruel S. De Vera

It's a whole new ball game on the web for Nonong Vibar and GameNaGame.com

Gaming the Pinoy Way

YOU KNOW THAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH A SPECIAL GROUP WHEN THE COMPANY IS CELEBRATING AS ITS LATEST TECHNICAL INNOVATION THE ARRIVAL OF TONG-ITS *ON THE WORLD WIDE WEB. THAT GROUP IS INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER SURFSHOP, THE POWER SOURCE BEHIND THE FIRST AND ONLY PINOY ONLINE GAME SITE, GAMENAGAME.COM (HTTP://WWW.GAMENAGAME.COM). "*TONG-ITS *IS QUITE POPULAR," CONSTANTINO "NONONG" VIBAR, SURFSHOP'S GENERAL MANAGER, EXPLAINS. GAMENAGAME.COM IS SURFSHOP'S LATEST AND MOST POTENT INNOVATION, BUT IT'S HARDLY NONONG'S FIRST EXPERIENCE AS A CYBER PIONEER.*

Educated at Dominican College in upstate New York, Nonong was working for Nestle Philippines as an information technology programmer in 1996 when he realized he wanted to be part of the coming Internet revolution in Manila. "I just wanted a chance to participate." A year later, he put up Surfshop.com. From four employees in 1997, Surfshop now has 21 full-time employees and 1,700 subscribers. But it is GameNaGame.com that has truly put them on the virtual map.

In early 2001, Nonong was looking for a way to differentiate Surfshop from the other ISPs. "It's difficult to compete in IT," the 35-year-old Nonong says, "the key is development." With that, he hatched the idea for a game site, but one with a Pinoy flavor. GameNaGame.com debuted in March. Aside from the usual chess and the popular Counter-Strike, the site features Dama, Game of the Generals and Pusoy Dos. GameNaGame.com has proven to be a tremendous success, with some 16,000 registered gamers. But Nonong says there's a deeper purpose behind the site.

*"We're using the site to build a truly vibrant Pinoy online community," he explains, adding that GameNaGame.com has many gamers from abroad. "They like to visit the site and talk, because it's like they're still here in the Philippines." GameNaGame.com is also looking at adding games like billiards and even developing their own games. Nonong is very much into taking their games to the next level, and GameNaGame.com is currently developing games that may be accessed from your cellphone by next year. "The next step is to take advantage of the wireless audience and develop our earning potential." True to form, Nonong gamely joins in on **SIM**'s email exchange.*

SIM: What, in a nutshell, is GameNaGame.com's mission?
Nonong: The main objective of GameNaGame.com is to develop a strong and vibrant Filipino Online community through providing pure fun and online interaction. And in the age of the Counter-Strike, it also attempts to restore old Filipino games in history and revive the wholesome fun.

Jim Guiao Punzalan

SIM: Why should the average Filipino web surfer visit your site?
Nonong: The game site is definitely designed for all Filipino web surfers. Aside from the games themselves, the most important attraction of the site, I believe, is the chance to interact with fellow Filipinos from around the world. This is especially true for Filipinos who live abroad who crave to be with their fellow countrymen.

SIM: How much time do you spend on the web everyday?
Nonong: A lot, around eight to 10 hours mostly playing. :)

SIM: If you could come up with an email addy that would properly describe you, what would it be?
Nonong: LUCKY@surfshop

SIM: What is your favorite online game?
Nonong: My favorite is Game of the Generals. And am so surprised (and glad) to find out that the inventor is a Filipino, Ronnie Pasola.

SIM: What is your favorite real world game or sport?
Nonong: Pingpong

SIM: What is your favorite digital gadget?
Nonong: My cellphone, a Nokia 6210.

SIM: What is your favorite analog or non-techie possession?
Nonong: Hmmm . . . Everything seems to be electronic these days. I guess my Cross pen.

SIM: What is your favorite food or beverage for getting all wired up for the day?
Nonong: Henlin's siomai with lots of chili.

SIM: What's the thing you love most about the Internet?
Nonong: It is multi-functional. People get access to a wealth of information and opportunities. It's very informative, interactive, and entertaining.

SIM: Conversely, what do you hate most about it?
Nonong: Personally, I don't see any disadvantages as far as convenience is concerned. We just hope that people behind the web sites would continue to publish contents responsibly so that Internet won't become a medium for distortions.

SIM: What is the biggest upside to being part of GameNaGame.com?
Nonong: We're very proud in such a way that we feel we are doing our part in promoting and maintaining an aspect of Filipino culture in this digital age.

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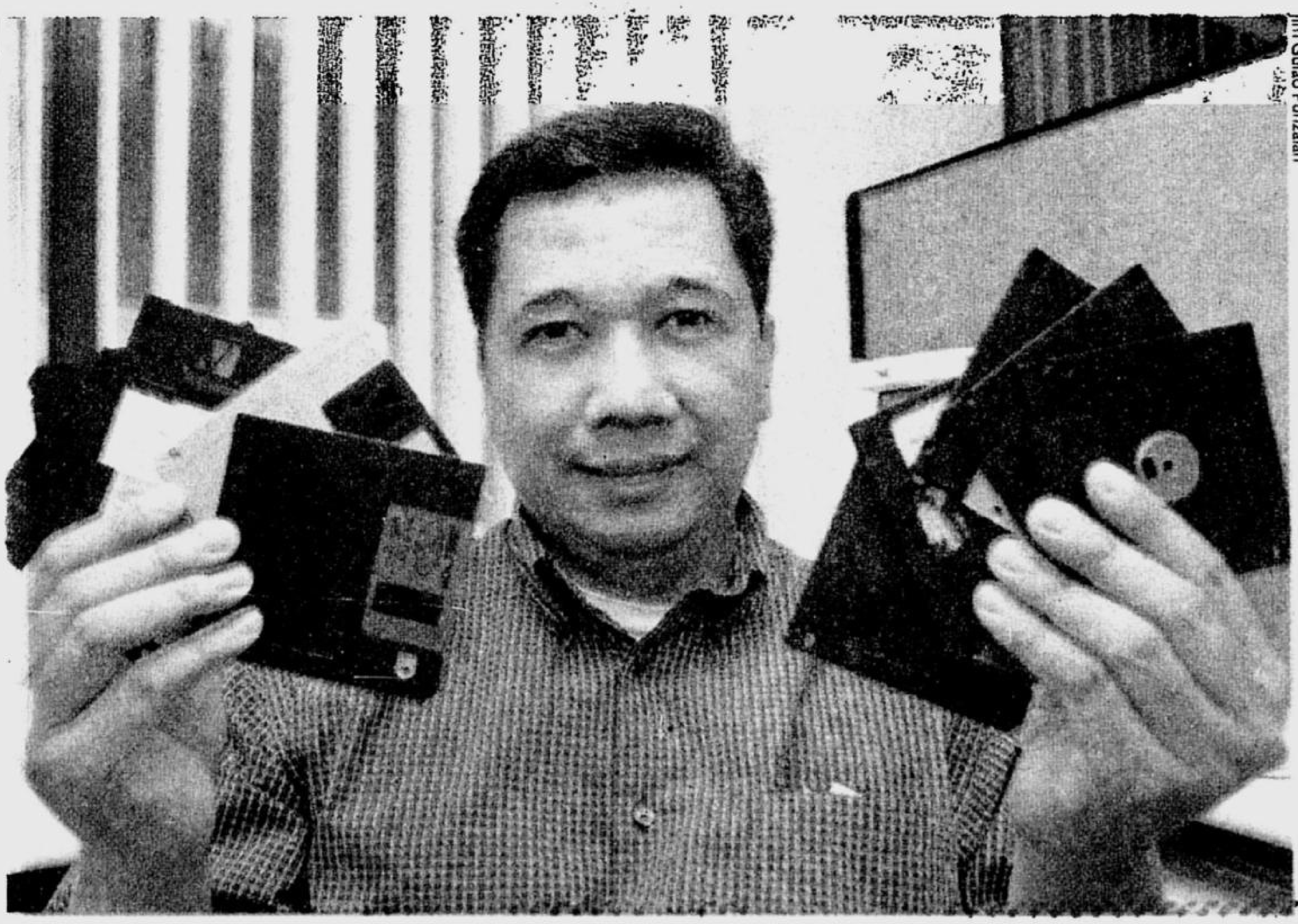

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Artwatch
by Jonathan Best

On a recent visit to the Philippines, German art restorer and conservator Renate Kant offered important advice on the nitty-gritty of protecting the country's art treasures from a slew of threats, from ignorant art handlers to leaking air-conditioners.

For Art's Sake

LAST NOVEMBER RENATE KANT, AN ACCLAIMED GERMAN ART CONSERVATOR AND RESTORER NOW BASED IN SINGAPORE, MADE A SHORT VISIT TO MANILA. SHE WAS INVITED HERE TO GIVE HER PROFESSIONAL ADVICE REGARDING SEVERAL IMPORTANT COLLECTIONS OF PAINTINGS, AND TO PRESENT A LECTURE ON FINE ART CONSERVATION FOR THE ASIA SOCIETY AT THE FILIPINAS HERITAGE LIBRARY. THIS WAS HER SECOND VISIT TO MANILA.

She never hesitates to roll up her sleeves and tackle the termites, fungus, mold, rips, tears, flaking paint and damp storage rooms, which are the bane of all art collectors

Despite her elegant demeanor and polite European charm, Kant is very much a hands-on conservator/restorer. She never hesitates to roll up her sleeves and tackle the termites, fungus, mold, rips, tears, flaking paint and damp storage rooms, which are the bane of all art collectors. This year she has had to expand to a much larger studio due to the increased demand for high quality art restoration in Southeast Asia.

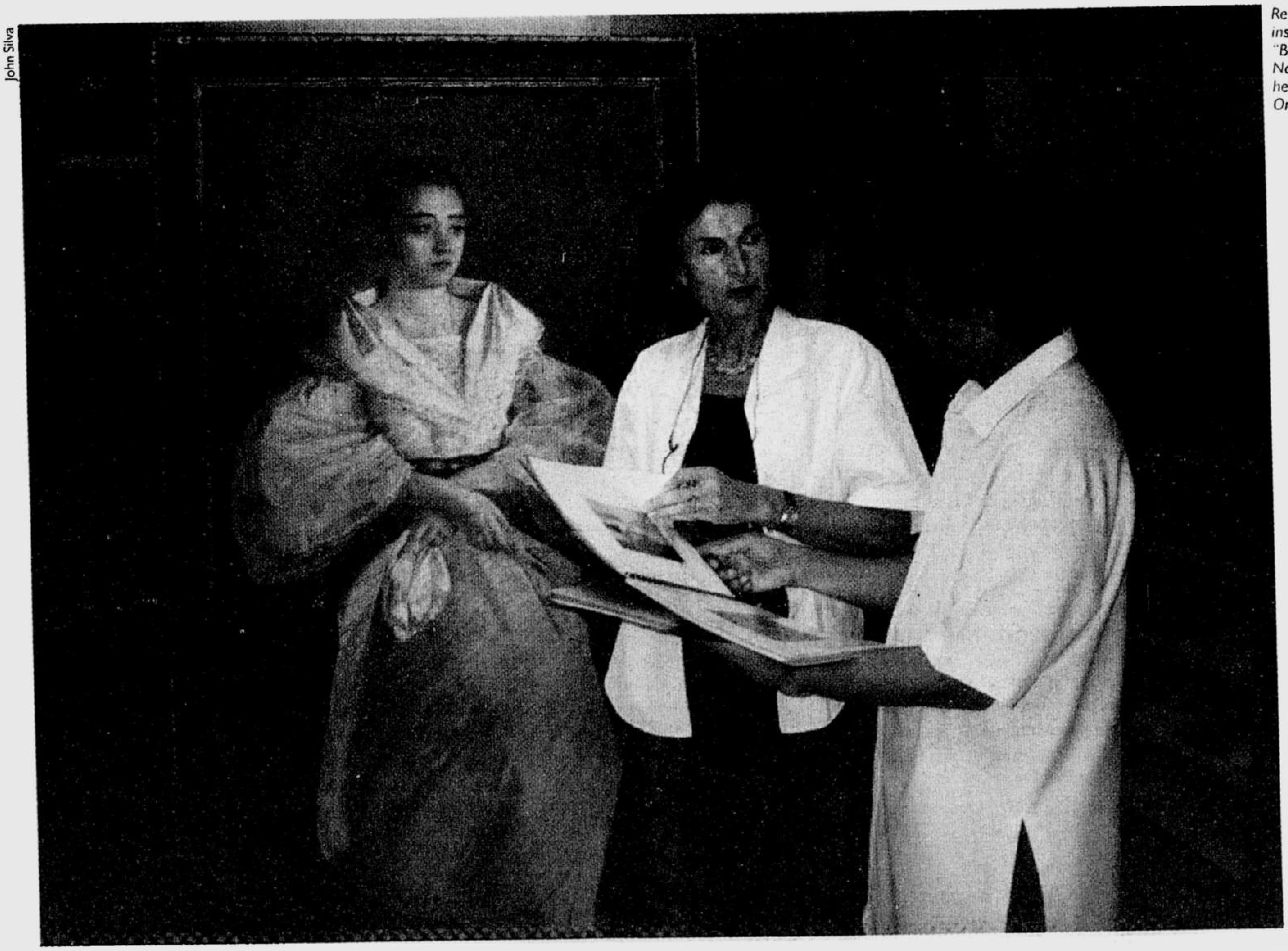
Maintaining paintings and other works of art in a tropical climate is challenging and expensive. Kant carefully explained the basic rules of conservation in her lecture and slide presentation and documented numerous problems affecting the various collections she inspected while she was here. She has been working in this field now for almost 30 years both in Europe and Asia.

Conservation involves the proper storage and handling of artwork. Many people, even in museum settings, take this for granted, thinking that simple common sense is enough to protect most art from damage and aging.

Some of the basic guidelines Kant laid out were simple: Never hang a picture in direct sunlight or bright light of any kind. Too much light bleaches colors, especially organic pigments, and is also responsible for drying and heating which causes cracking and warping. Along with excess light, water and humidity are major causes of damage.

Water can come from many unexpected sources – leaking roof, windows left open during rain storms and moisture seeping up through concrete or dirt floors.

"Mechanical damage" to artwork is often the most destructive and at the same time the easiest to avoid. This refers to injury caused by physical abrasion. The worst instances of this are caused by earthquakes and fires. Mishandling and improper storage can also do great harm, as does over-cleaning paintings with household cleansers. Paintings are also ripped, punctured, scratched, scraped, dented,


John Silva

Renate Kant inspects Juan Luna's "Bulakeña" with the National Museum's head conservator Orlando V. Abinion

stained and burned due to mishandling by untrained personnel, and art work should always be kept away from heat sources, food and cigarette smoke.

The Philippines has been somewhat remiss in this respect due to a national inclination to spend more on public displays and ribbon cuttings, and not so much on mundane year-to-year maintenance and boring and expensive backroom storage systems. However, these are essential for preserving art for future generations.

A great deal of damage is done to paintings by unprofessional, self-trained restorers who mount canvas on plywood boards, clean off authentic layers of paint, over-paint and whimsically embellish original works. Often times they use materials, which react violently with the original medium of the painting. A prime example of this is found on painting which have been coated with new varnish layers. The new varnish will initially bring out the brilliance of the old colors, but as it dries over the years it may shrink faster than the stable layers of paint below and literally rip the original painting off the canvas in large flakes. This situation is almost impossible to stabilize. During her visits to various museums and private collections Kant came across a beautiful Manansala oil painting on board, which was in the final stages of completely self-destructing due to this mistaken treatment.

Renate Kant's advice regarding Philippine art treasures fits in exactly with what we have been hearing from conservators in other fields. The Heritage Conservation Society and the architects and city planners associated with it have been saying over and over again that architectural preservation must be done professionally with an eye to the long-term results. Research must be done, original materials used and long term maintenance established. For major national treasures, whether they are buildings, antique furniture, artifacts, books or paintings, this means a considerable financial investment for initial restorative treatments and training of personnel.

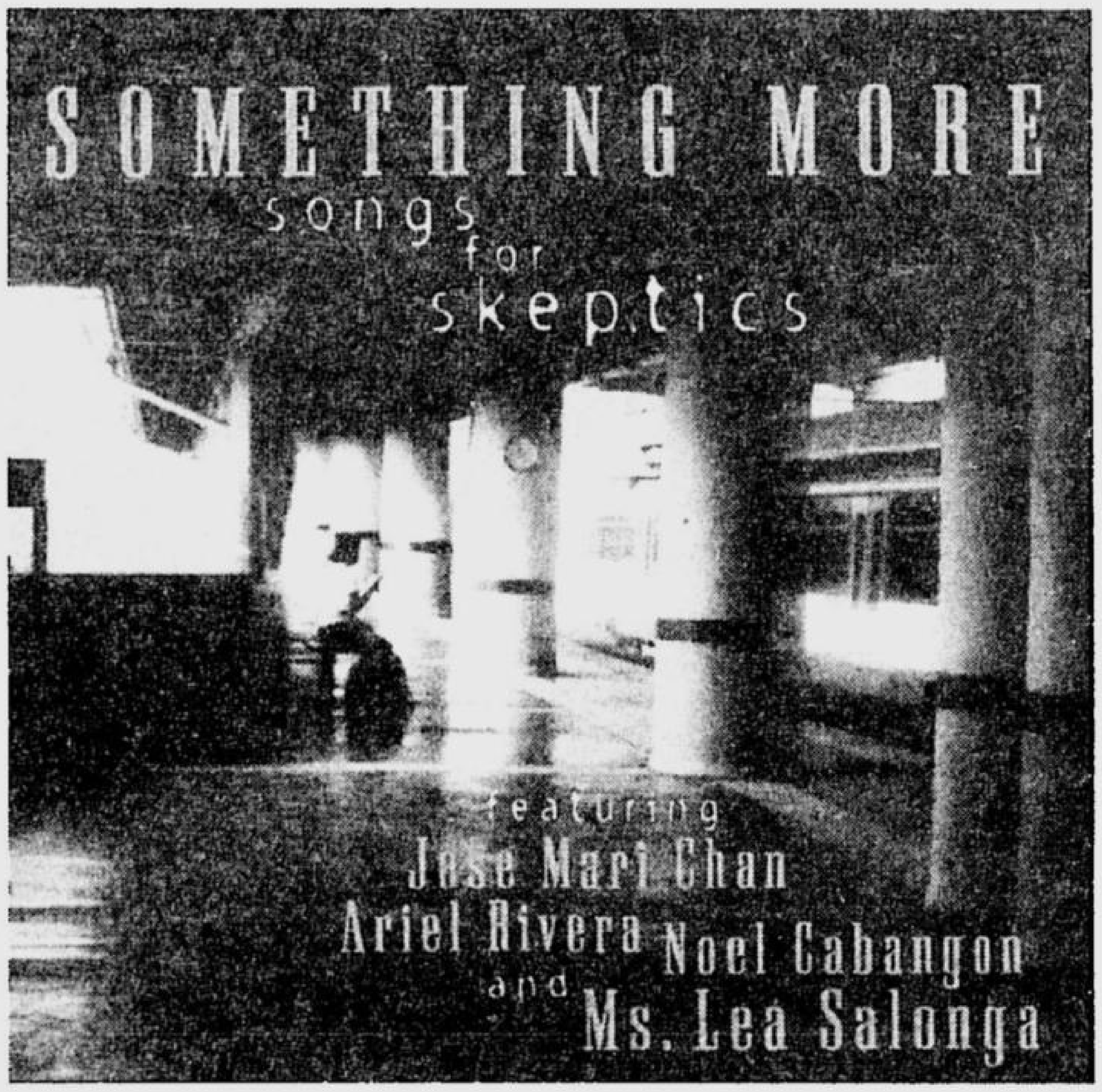
Heritage restoration cannot be left to corporate boards, politicians, parish priests or rich dilettantes, no matter how sincere or well meaning they may be. It is simply not fair to the officials involved to expect them to make intelligent and well informed decisions in this highly specialized field. The people who should be given the task of protecting the national artistic heritage are the art historians, museum directors, curators, distinguished collectors, professionally trained restorers and related scholars. Committees of experts can make well-informed decisions and should be held publicly accountable for the long term maintenance and proper handling of the national artistic patrimony. Private individuals also have an inherent responsibility to future generations to properly maintain their collections and make them available to the public.

After spending several days racing around Manila with Kant looking at damaged art and terrible storage and display situations, I came away somewhat overwhelmed. The restoration and conservation needs are formidable in even the most prestigious institutions. However, the number of truly beautiful paintings, both modern and antique, which have survived and should be on permanent public display is also very impressive. I doubt there is another country in Asia, which has as many important paintings in the Western artistic tradition as the Philippines. Museums from Singapore to Tokyo are spending tens of millions of dollars every year to import foreign masterpieces for their relatively new collections.

Renate Kant brings to the Philippines and the Southeast Asian region a higher level of professional conservation methods and scientific restoration techniques than has been available here before. The cost of conservation and restoration is high, but art galleries and museums are a tremendous tourist attraction and should be a fundamental part of every young person's education. In the long run proper maintenance of heritage art collections more than pays for itself in tourist revenue. The added value of increased national pride for the Philippines would be priceless.

Soulful Songs for the Skeptical

"Something More" has 15 songs that please the ear and soothe the soul



THE start of every year is always an opportune time for soul-searching and spiritual renewal. World-weary listeners won't find a more accessible source of musical soul food than the Jesuit Music Ministry anthology album "Something More: Songs for Skeptics." Containing 15 songs, all polished, inspiring and specially produced for the album, "Something More" offers a thoughtful, tuneful way of reflecting on our lives. "Something More" features performances by Lea Salonga, Ariel Rivera, Jose Mari Chan, Noel Cabangon, Hangad and the Bukas Palad Music Ministry, among others. In the words of producer Fr. Johnny Go, S.J., the album "is a different kind of religious album because you'll notice that a number of the songs in the album aren't explicitly religious. Many of them are about angst and longing, an almost desperate search for meaning."

In that case, "Something More" certainly fits the bill with songs ranging from the solemnly lovely "Simeon's Canticle" to the tastefully upbeat "All Shall Be Well." Each song offers something for everyone who needs an answer. The album's best song, "Let Your Spirit," is a graceful number that is made catchy by Cabangon's talent but also deeply affecting through lyrics by Go and music by Eddie Dass, S.J. The album is also intended to reach a wider audience through music videos. The videos for the Ariel Rivera-Bukas Palad piece "One More Gift" and "Let Your Spirit" are already in rotation on free TV and expect more such eye-catching videos to follow.

Go explains that the album is "for those who don't fit the usual religious stereotype, but who are nevertheless restless and looking for something in their lives. So in a sense, we're all restless and looking for God; many of us just don't know it. Why not write songs for seekers and skeptics, not necessarily religious maybe, but certainly spiritual?" In that case, "Something More: Songs for Skeptics" may just strike the right note to begin a new, hopeful year; an album that's really easy on the ears and burrows deep into the soul. For inquiries, please contact the Jesuit Music Ministry at 426-5971 or e-mail jmm@vasia.com.

Ruel S. De Vera

The Word

by Fr. Ruben J. Villote

A Time to Begin and Grow

Watching the two generations of Binhi together was a victorious and grateful experience of hope and fulfillment—and the faithfulness of God

IT'S A GOOD TIME TO TALK ABOUT BEGINNINGS AS WE START ANOTHER NEW YEAR.

"*BINHI*" (WHICH MEANS "A FERTILIZED OVULE OF A PLANT CAPABLE OF GROWING AND DEVELOPING INTO A PLANT LIKE ITS PARENT") IS THE TITLE OF A YOUTH LITURGICAL THEATER WORKSHOP IN THE PARISH OF PUNTA, SANTA ANA IN MANILA. THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF DANCE, DRAMA AND SONG, THE YOUTH (IN THEIR MID-TEENS AND EARLY 20S) ARE ABLE TO ARTICULATE FREELY THEIR HOPES AND DREAMS, INTERPRETING THEIR REALITIES IN THE CONTEXT OF FAITH AND GOSPEL-VALUES.

The young cast performing in "*Binhi*" today must have been babies in 1976 when I started the Ina ng Laging Saklolo Parish along with the indigenous themes of the *Dambanang Bayan* for the church motif and *Binhi* for the liturgical and community theater media for evangelization. I was then in my mid-40s. The *Binhi* then were the young parents of the *Binhi* today, now all grown up and mature in age, wisdom and faith. They have grown older along with me through 25 years. The first seedbeds of *Binhi* in 1976 had grown and developed enough to produce another young set of *Binhi* in 2001, sturdy in their faith and moving on, like their parents before them, to conquer the world.

Last December 2, "*Binhi: Isang Pagtatanghal ng Dula, Sayaw at Awit*" performed at the Dominican College auditorium in San Juan. They had a repeat performance last December 16 and 23 at the Center for Migrant Youth in connection with the Poor Reaching Out to the Poor Christmas ministry of the Center. It was an endearing reunion for me and the parent *Binhi* group of the '70s along with the Gen-2 *Binhi* group of 2001. The experience of watching *Binhi* I and II standing together was like looking at two chapters of my personal history interlocked and frozen in time, telling me how swift the years have passed. It showed me how beautiful the miracle of the cycle of life from *binhi* to plant, to blossoming shrub, to fruit-bearing tree and back to "being *binhi*" again.

It was a sobering and humbling meditation on the passing of years. For me, it was also a victorious and grateful experience of hope and fulfillment—and the faithfulness of God.

We at CMY are grateful to Emil Buena (choir master), Jason del Rosario (director), Nebrida Firmezo (guardian), Ellite Tambis (adviser of Creative Leadership) and, of course, Fr. Mark C. Munda (parochial vicar of the Ina ng Laging Saklolo Parish in Punta, Sta. Ana).

May the year 2002 be, for you, a year of becoming the best you could ever be: a year of growing gracefully in age, wisdom and faith, for the next decade—and beyond.

The new generation of "Binhi"

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MEMBER: PANA Truth in Advertising

People for the Planet

by Ed L. Santoalla

photographs by Roger Carpio

His grandfather fought on the battlefield for his country. Today, Toto Malvar is waging a different war to save the environment and enable communities to do the same

For Love of the Mountain

THE GREAT MIGUEL MALVAR, THE LAST REVOLUTIONARY GENERAL TO SURRENDER TO THE AMERICANS IN THE ILL-FATED WAR FOR PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE, BELIEVED IN IT: NO GREATER AMULET IS THERE THAN LOVE OF GOD FIRST AND LOVE OF COUNTRY SECOND.

A century hence, a grandson would live by the strong conviction that has marked the lives of many a member of the illustrious Malvar clan of Batangas. Entrepreneur-environmentalist Alberto "Toto" Malvar, 53, is first cousin to the Villegas brothers, Bernardo and Edilberto. Toto, like his kin, is armed with technocratic credentials; he has economics and MBA degrees from the Ateneo. Today, he is fighting for environmental protection through community empowerment.

Toto is president of Terra Resources for Upland Environmental Development (TRUE), an NGO dedicated to reforesting denuded portions of the Marikina watershed. He's a tree lover, but the efforts that he and his wife of 31 years, Azucena "Baby" San Gabriel Malvar, are exerting in Mt. Purro, Barangay Calawis, Antipolo, Rizal, show them to be tree lovers of a different kind.

Many equate the concept of reforestation to just tree-planting. For Toto and Baby, reforestation, like any other outside intervention in threatened environments, should involve the people who reside in those environments. Thanks to the United Nations' Earth Summit of 1991 and the Agenda 21 that it produced, many have seen the light of this principle. Toto learned it the hard way.

In 1992, after three years of struggling with a government unimpressed with his track record as an environmentalist, Toto and TRUE finally got permission to reforest 935 hectares of denuded land on Mt. Purro, a part of the threatened Marikina watershed system.

But the first thing that he met on his way to the project site was the suspicion and resistance of residents. "They saw me as just another interloper out to rob them of their rights to land they have been tilling and living in for decades," Toto says of indigenous Dumagats and migrant Ilonggos who constitute the community of Calawis, located an hour or so from the city proper of Antipolo.

There were times especially during the initial years of the project, says Toto, when he was threatened with violence by community residents. But his grandfather's amulet – and his own determination – would protect him.

While still in college at the Ateneo in the late '60s, Toto joined a summer work camp of the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM) in San Leonardo, Nueva Ecija, where he met his soon-to-be wife. It was this initial exposure to barrio life that would form Toto and Baby's life dreams as a couple. Immediately after graduation, they went to Mindanao to teach English and give vocational training to the sons and daughters of Visayan, Lumad and Muslim peasants in the boondocks of Surigao del Sur and Sulu.

Toto's years in Mindanao coincided with the tumultuous First Quarter Storm, the period of intense protest against the Marcos government that would eventually lead to the declaration of martial law in 1972.

After a year in Mindanao, Toto went back to Manila to marry Baby and to "acquire tools for life." He pursued MBA studies at the Ateneo, a move that would lead him to the corporate world, first as a marketing man for Fuji and Xerox and then as an executive with Bancom up till 1979. The latter stint, which involved dealing with agricultural products and markets, gave Toto a chance to look at grassroots life and the task of helping grassroots people from the perspective of a corporate man.

"It was during my time with Bancom that I met Divisoria traders and learned what farmers did to earn a living," Toto relates.

After Bancom, he went into full-time farming and trading agricultural commodities. It was a move that would bring him back to the cause that he had first embraced in college — people's development. His stint with the corporate world had given him a valuable lesson: the best way to develop people is to develop their capacity for livelihood. It was this same lesson that would guide Toto in the environmentalist cause that he would embrace in the late '80s, one that went beyond just planting trees to proactively helping people help themselves.

Toto and wife Baby are tree lovers of a progressive kind

"I have realized early on that for one to save trees, one has to save people first," says Toto. Exposed to the realities of upland rural life inside the Marikina watershed, where people have been engaging in illegal logging, charcoal-making, *kaingin* farming and other livelihood activities detrimental to the forest, Toto endeavored to put in place a program to provide 3,000 families living in the area with alternative sources of income.

With the help of Ateneo classmates and friends like RCBC president Val Araneta and industrial management expert Rey Hidalgo, Toto put up an organization called SERVE Inc., or Socially and Ecologically Responsible and Viable Endeavors, to attend to the livelihood component of the reforestation program.

Through SERVE, Toto and his friends are now implementing a program anchored on a strategy that not only empowers and mobilizes forest communities but also encourages everyone who has a stake in the conservation of the Marikina watershed to help. Program components include "Alamin," whereby participants visit a nature camp located inside the Mt. Purro conservation site, get an overview of the project's objectives, and eat a hearty Filipino meal; "Damdamin," whereby participants get an up-close-and-personal chance to meet a Mt. Purro resident family; and "Kumilos," whereby participants adopt one or more trees to celebrate an event such as birthdays, weddings, graduations and so on. In "Tumaya," participants get to sponsor livelihood projects that generate sustained livelihood and earn a reasonable return-on-investment (ROI) for cooperator-investor participation.

The program has found concrete expression in the nature camp complete with cottages, watercourses and promenades perfect for nature-tripping and meditation that Toto and his friends have developed in a corner of the reforestation site, with the help of Calawis residents providing labor and indigenous materials.

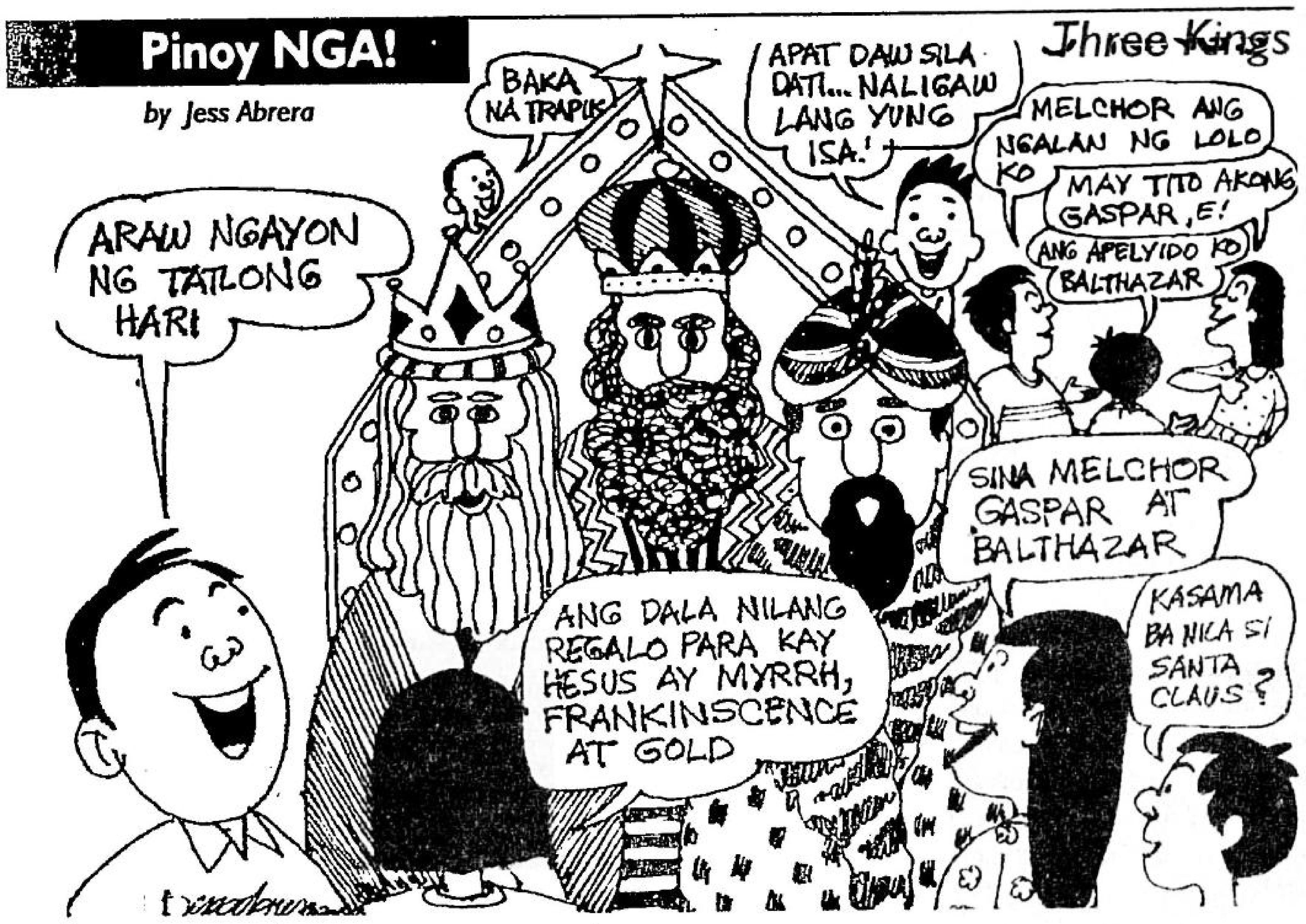
The camp, which has facilities that make it perfect for activities that aid in weaning the youth away from self-destructive pursuits and developing their leadership potentials, is being offered as a site where schools can bring in their students to engage in leadership training seminars while communing with nature. Right now, Toto is negotiating with Ateneo, Miriam and other schools for participation of their students in such a program.

Toto's efforts in Calawis have earned him the respect and trust of residents there. This, however, has not prevented his becoming exposed to that other reality inside the Marikina watershed: Armed groups recently swooped down on the project and burned a truck and other equipment because these were being used for "counter-revolutionary" activities. Thanks to Toto's "amulet," the friendship that he has developed with Calawis residents and earlier ones that he had struck with the Left, such harassment has stopped.

Since early on in their married lived, Toto and Baby have always dreamed of spending life in the mountains. In their efforts to reforest the threatened Marikina watershed, they have now found a dream fulfilled.

Pinoy NGA!

by Jess Abrera



Three ~~Kin~~gs
ARAW NGAYON NG TATLONG HARI
BAKA NA TRAPIK
APAT DAW SILA DATI... NALIGAW LANG YUNG ISA!
MELCHOR ANG NGALAN NG LOLO KO
MAY TITO AKONG GASPAR, E!
ANG APELYIDO KO BALTHAZAR
SINA MELCHOR GASPAR AT BALTHAZAR
ANG DALA NILANG REGALO PARA KAY HESUS AY MYRRH, FRANKINSCENCE AT GOLD
KASAMA BA NILA SI SANTA CLAUS?

Poetry

Yours, Etcetera

The heart's crude affection etched on a tree.

The height of graffiti in bathroom stalls.

On sidewalk pavements, initial encounters.

Sometimes a name, sometimes a number
Where you could be reached. Imaginary or otherwise

You were here.

You are here. Addressing the fine
Print of certificates, walking

Papers: the many forms to fill out
Before you fill in.

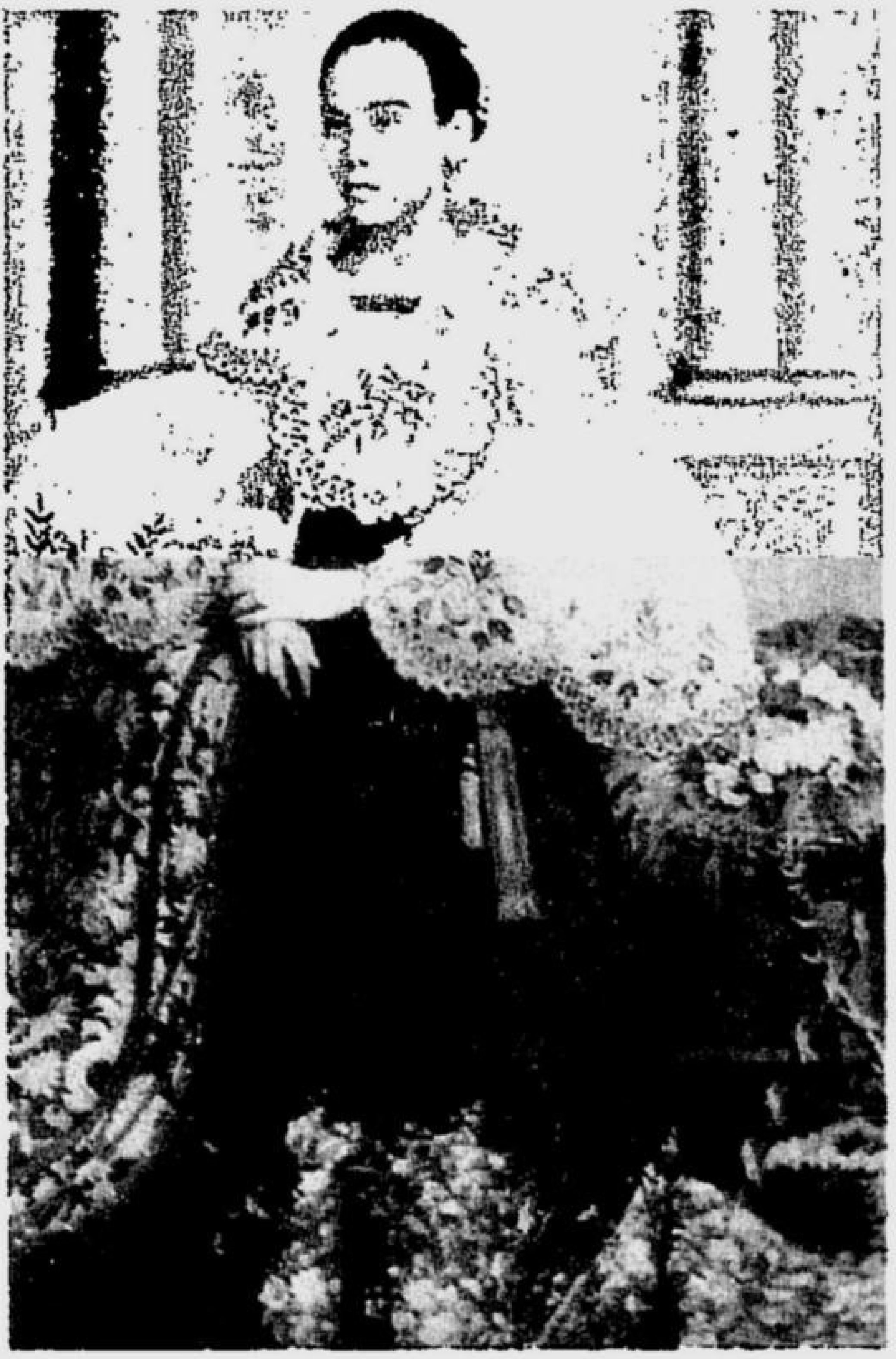
Paolo Manalo

This Week

Art

National Artist **Ang Kiukok** and **Ting Ping Lay** is holding a joint exhibit of still lifes and sculptures until Jan. 9 at Finale Art File, LaO Center, Pasay Road, cor. Makati Avenue, Makati City.

Life Before Death, an exhibit of new pastel works on paper by Australian artist Merrick Belyea at the Australia Centre, 104 Paseo de Roxas cor. Perea St., Makati City until Jan. 11.



A portrait of Arcadia Suarez Joven from "Baro't Saya," *on exhibit at the Museo De La Salle, Cavite*

Circle of Existence, an exhibit in three-dimensional illustrations in soft sculpture to tell the creation story of the universe by fabric artist Winnie Rose Reyes until Jan. 15 at the UP Vargas Museum, Roxas Avenue, Diliman, QC. For details, call 928-1927.

Pito-Pito, paintings by Ian Victoriano and Jon Red until Jan. 11 at the Blind Tiger Bar and Gallery, 13 Visayas Ave., QC. For details, call 928-1158.

Olympus: The House of God, a collection of pen and ink drawings by Janos Delacruz until Jan. 30 at the Madrigal Art Center in Ayala Alabang.

LoveLock, a hair and photo exhibit featuring the unique hairstyles by French hairstylist Eric Faury and photographer Neal Oshima who did experimental shots using special light effects. Image models include Tina Maristela Ocampo, Ida Campo, Joan Bitagocl, Nicolette Belle, Lisa Santiago, Heidi and Hani Koch, Angel Aquino and Chin Chin Gutierrez. Exhibit runs until Jan. 25 at the Alliance Francaise, 209 Nicanor Garcia St., Bel-Air II, Makati. For details, call 895-7441.

Music

The CompanY recently released an all OPM album titled **Storybook** featuring poignant short stories in song form written by Edith M. Gallardo, Babsie Molina and Moy Ortiz. The songs feature mini movies or vignettes depicting the different aspects of love arranged in pop, adult, contemporary, smooth jazz, country pop, a cappella and pop-rock. The album is now available in all record outlets in Metro Manila.

For this week's bands and schedules call:

- Hard Rock Café (893-4662-65)
- Virgin Café : QC (926-7982)
- '70s Bistro: 46 Anonas St., QC (922-0492)
- Hobbit House: 1801 Mabini St., Malate, Manila (521-7604)
- Strumm's: El Pueblo, Ortigas (637-3009)

Onstage

Lea Salonga leads the cast of David Auburn's 2001 Pulitzer Prize and Tony Award winning play **Proof** when it opens in Manila on Jan. 9 at the GSIS Theater. "Proof" is a straight play about a young woman, Catherine, who inherited an exceptional mathematical genius from her father and fears that she might have inherited his dementia as well. The play runs until Jan. 27. For tickets, call Atlantis Productions at 892-7078.

Romeo and Juliet will be staged in its original English form by the Gantimpala Theater Foundation at the AFP Theater, Camp Aguinaldo on Jan. 11-13, 18-20 with 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. shows. The play will move to the JCS Auditorium (Paco Catholic School, Pedro Gil, Manila) on Jan. 26-27 and then to the RFC Theater, Alabang, Zapote Road on Feb. 1-3. For inquiries, call 899-5745 or 897-1533.

Satirika, the prize-winning play by Reuel Molina Aguila on the lives of six bourgeois Filipinos during the height of the political and economic unrest of the early eighties, will be staged by ENTABLADO on Jan. 11, 12, 13, 18, 19, 20, 24, 25, and 26 at the Rizal Mini Theater, Ateneo de Manila University. For details, call 426-6001 local 5121 or 5068.

Concert at the Park presents the members of the Association of Ballet Academies of the Phils. in a program welcoming the year that promises to be "a ballet to remember" at 5 p.m. today at the Rizal Park Open-Air Auditorium, Manila. Admission is free.

Cinema

Filmless Films in cooperation with Ayala Cinemas present **Mov: The Digital Moviefest** on Jan. 23 to 30 at Greenbelt Cinema 1. For details, call 433-3496 or 921-8434 or visit website at www.mov.moviespage.com. Volunteers are welcome.

Atbp

Anvil Publishing Inc. recently released a pioneering textbook called **Filipinos Writing: Philippine Literature from the Regions** edited by Dr. Bienvenido Lumbera. The book is an inspired collection of literary works from the regions of Northern Luzon, Bicol, Mindanao, Western Visayas, NCR, Central Visayas, Pangasinan, Central Luzon, Southern Tagalog, Eastern Visayas, the Cordilleras and Pampanga. The book aims to make students aware that Filipino writers have also produced outstanding works in seven other major Philippine languages in a variety of little-known ethnic languages. Available at National Bookstore and Powerbooks branches.

Women 18-59 years old are invited to join the **free livelihood workshop** offered by the DSWD. Courses offered are Stuffed Toy Making, Basic Sewing and Hi-Speed Sewing, Quilting, Food Processing and Preservation, Home Aide Services and Candle Making. For inquiries, call 525-0594 or 524-2595.

Inner Space Manila will hold the following courses this month: The Power of Positive Thoughts (Jan. 7), Stress-Free Living (Jan. 9), Know Your Fortune (Jan. 14), Time Out: Give Yourself a Break (Jan. 16), Healthy U! (Jan. 21), Why Vegetarianism? (Jan. 23), Refresh! Softdrink for the Soul (Jan. 28), Raja Yoga: A Meditation Experience (Jan. 30). All courses start at 5:15 p.m. and are offered for free at the 3/F CDC Building, 1195 Maria Orosa St., Ermita, Manila. For inquiries, call 521-2015 and 524-3489.

Computer Assembly Workshop. Learn the basics of computer assembling, hardware configuration, installation of software, troubleshooting and upgrading on Jan. 13, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Earthlite, 4/F, COD Building, Cubao. Fee includes handouts and certificate. For details, call 417-1521.

The UP Preparatory High School Batch 1962 will hold its **grand ruby reunion** on Feb. 10-17. It will start with a welcome dinner at the residence of Ed Delgado in Ayala Alabang on Feb. 10. Other activities include city tours, out-of-town tours, mini-reunions, picture-taking at the Old UP Prep, Rizal Hall, Padre Faura, Manila, a Valentine's party at the house of Flor Gozon-Tarriela in Valle Verde on Feb. 16 and the grand reunion at the residence of Delfin Lazaro in Forbes Park on Feb. 17. All alumni are requested to call Edna Ledesma at 894-3827 (office) and 824-5854 (residence) to confirm attendance.

The Philippine Board on Books for Young People is now accepting entries for the **2002 PBBY Illustrators' Prize.** The contest is open to all Filipino citizens except those who are related to any PBBY member up to the third degree of consanguinity. Entries must be based on the winning story "*Uuwi Na ang Nanay Kong si Darna*" by Edgar Samar. Copies of the story may be requested from the PBBY secretariat. All entries must be original unpublished illustrations and must consist of three illustrations that are of the same size and medium. Each entry must be signed by a pen name only, preferably on a small piece of paper pasted on the back of each artwork. Entries with a signature or any identifying marks are automatically disqualified. Contestants must submit a separate envelope, on the face of which only the pen name of the contestant shall appear. The envelope must contain the contestant's full name, address, contact numbers, short description of background, and notarized certification vouching for the originality of the entry. All entries must be sent to the PBBY Secretariat, c/o Adarna House, 73-A Scout Limbaga St., Barangay Laging Handa, QC and must be received by 5 p.m. on Feb. 15. For details, call 372-3548 or 49.

X-manila

Gestures of Love, an exhibit of recent works in paper by Victor Secuya at Gallery 5, JS Gaisano Citimall, Ilustre St., Davao City until Jan. 8.

The Community-Based Resource Management Project of the Dept. of Finance launched its ***Kabundukan, Ilog at Dagat-Kalikasan* (KID-*Kalikasan*) poster-making contest.** The contest is open to children 7-12 years old who are residing in Bicol, Eastern and Central Visayas or Caraga regions. Participants in the said regions should submit their poster-entries to a nearest CBRMP regional office on the following schedules: Bicol (Jan. 6-8), Eastern Visayas and Caraga (Jan. 7).

The Davao Regional Artists Workshop presents five Dabawenyo artists (Joel Geolamen — etching on phtographs; Ruben de Vera — prints and poems; Henry Lazaro—sculptures; Ben Banez and Rodney Yap— paintings) at the new art gallery of the Davao Museum, Insular Village 1, Lanang, Davao City. The exhibit runs until Jan. 12. For inquiries, call (082)300-8046 or (0917) 429-1632.

***Baro't Saya:* An exhibition on the Evolution of the Filipina Dress**, a permanent exhibit featuring 20 freestanding mannequins and 11 portraits of Filipinas in traditional dress from the 19th century to the immediate post-war period at the Museo De La Salle, DLSU-Dasmariñas, Cavite. For inquiries, call (02) 844-7832 or (046) 416-4531 loc. 3151.

The Sunday Inquirer Magazine welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules and tickets. You can reach us by e-mail at sim@inquirer.com.ph or by fax at 897-4811.